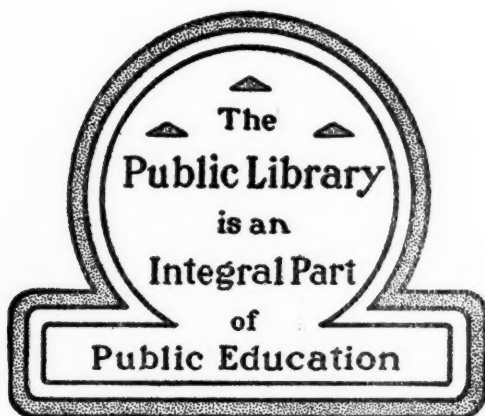


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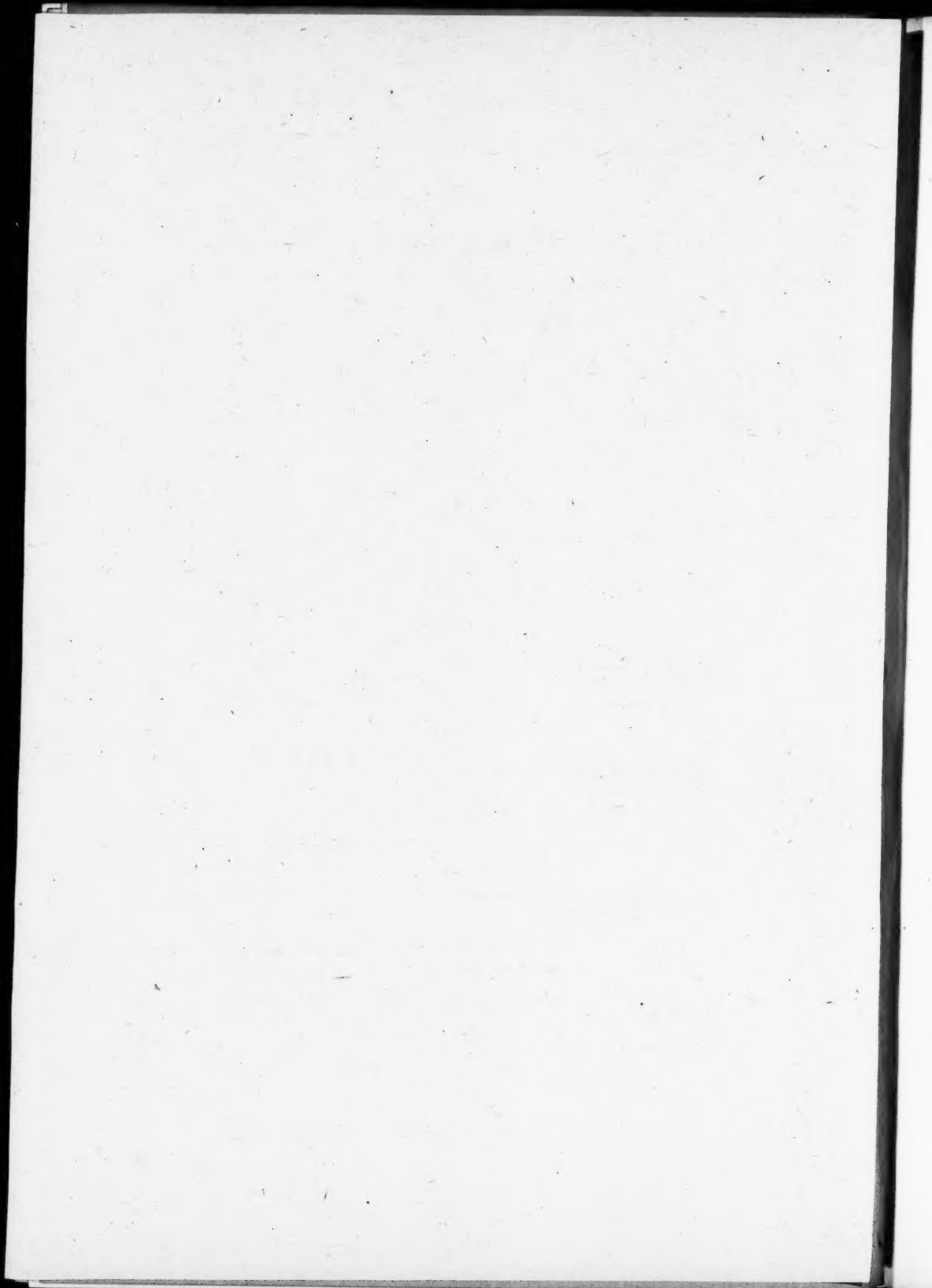
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Public Libraries

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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 14

June, 1909.

No. 6

The Librarian's Canons of Ethics*

Charles Knowles Bolton, Boston Athenæum

A recent number of the *Green Bag*, a magazine for lawyers, contained the 32 canons of ethics adopted by the American Bar association. They stand in the position of councilor to the younger men of the profession, combining worldly wisdom with unworldly ideals. Throughout the list there is a persistent note of courtesy and kindness, an emphasis upon concord as better than strife, and a call to lawyers to be first of all good citizens. American architects have certain printed rules of conduct and the medical profession, certain traditions which add to the literature of professional ethics. Some similar canons would, I think, stimulate among librarians an *esprit de corps*, and I here venture to suggest the librarian's canons of ethics, drawing my inspiration from those mentioned above and from the writings of leaders in the profession.

It is surprising to find so little of this nature in our library publications. Indeed, the only article which I have seen on the subject is a bright paper by Miss Walton in *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* for April, 1905. This, however, is so general in its suggestions that a more concrete statement of canons seems desirable.

I have treated first of the librarian's relation to his trustees. Next in order comes his relation to his staff, and their

duty to him. And then follows his relation to other librarians. Beyond this lies the all-important relation of a librarian to the public.

Taking up first the librarian's relation to his trustees we have:

I

Responsibility

In the organization of a library by the trustees much of their authority is usually delegated to the librarian. He should not chafe if the trustees as a body feel called upon from time to time to exercise the authority vested in them as guardians of the public interest.

II

Loyalty

When a librarian cannot in his dealings with the public be entirely loyal to a policy which is clearly upheld by his trustees he should explain his position to the board, and in an extreme case offer to resign.

III

Sincerity

To delay bringing a plan before the trustees until it is certain to obtain adequate presentation and a fair hearing may be considered only common wisdom; but to abstain from urging a project until a known opponent happens to be absent is unprofessional.

Turning now to the second of our subjects, the librarian's attitude toward those with whom he labors from day to day, we have these canons:

IV

Duty to the staff

A librarian is bound, as opportunity offers, to advance those that are capable to more responsible positions in his own library or elsewhere. He must also spend the money of his institution with due prudence, and get a full return for it in service. Although efficiency of the staff is

*This paper was discussed by a company of 20 in Boston, librarians and others, who gave unqualified approval to its spirit and requested its publication.

temporarily reduced by frequent transfer of assistants to new positions or to other libraries, in the end, a library whose workers are seen to obtain rapid and solid advancement profits by its reputation in this respect.

V

The staff's duty to the librarian

A librarian has a right to entire loyalty from his staff, although he may be called upon at times to face frank comment from them. Such criticism should never go beyond the library doors; nor should the staff carry complaints over the librarian's head to the trustees, except in extreme cases.

VI

The staff's duty to the library

An assistant should not allow personal antagonisms within the library to injure efficiency; nor should the staff use library hours for social intercourse. Enforced leisure during library hours should be used for self improvement as the best return for compensation received.

A librarian owes much to other librarians and to the professional associations, which are created for mutual benefit. We are not free lances engaged in warfare with our fellow workers. In these relations we have:

VII

Expert advice

A librarian may not act as an expert adviser to the trustees of another library, even when solicited, without the request, or at least without the full knowledge, of the librarian concerned, and not then unless he is persuaded that serious and probably irremediable delinquencies exist. The analogy is to be found in the physician, who may not advise a patient unless the attending physician requests it, or until the attending physician has been dismissed.

VIII

Private advice

A librarian should feel free to claim counsel from others in the same calling, and should be willing to give such counsel when requested, without publicity or expense.

IX

Rivalry

Statistics should not be used to show superiority of a library over neighboring libraries, by making a comparison in figures which a librarian would think too discourteous to put into words. If there is to be

printed criticism it should always bear clearly the librarian-author's name.

X

Engaging an assistant

A librarian may not negotiate for the services of an assistant in another library until he has made his intention known to the assistant's superior officer.

Still another canon may be added to our list:

XI

Predecessors

A librarian who makes a habit of commenting unfavorably on the work of his predecessors in office invites criticism of his good taste.

A librarian's obligation to the public exists in many forms:

XII

A librarian's province

The librarian is endeavoring to be a force in the community, and contact with people even more than with books engenders force. We must not confuse the duties of librarian and assistant; the one is always associated with *people*, although in a small library he (or she) may do all the work; the assistant may or may not be called upon to meet the public, but generally has specific duties to which specific hours must be given.

XIII

Bearing in public

A librarian as a person of influence, and seeking the respect of all his fellow citizens, cannot carelessly choose his company, nor indulge in habits and tastes that offend the social or moral sense. These self-limitations are in the nature of hostages which he gives for the general good. He must not limit his advisers to one circle, for he needs a wide horizon, ready sympathies, and the good will of all classes.

XIV

Use of his name

A librarian should be chary of lending his name to a public controversy to add weight to the contention of a local faction, or to commercial enterprises, even those that have an educational or philanthropic motive. Having a financial interest in any material device, invention or book proposed for purchase in his library, the librarian should inform his trustees of this interest.

Beyond this there is a limitless field for our canons of ethics to cover. We

cannot hope to mention all the ways in which librarians may be stimulated to high ideals. In his personal relation to books we may say:

XV

Specializing

The librarian should not permit specialized book-collecting or book-reading to narrow his field of interest, nor to bias his judgment in purchasing books. The number of points of contact with knowledge and with his public determines to some extent the librarian's usefulness.

In his relation to agents:

XVI

Shrewdness

Abandoning a reliable agent to obtain slightly better terms is usually of but temporary advantage, deprives the librarian of a trusted adviser and discourages a high standard in business. Nor should he jeopardize his independence by accepting special favors from business firms. The repudiation of orders and the return of books worn by reading injure the librarian's reputation for honorable dealing.

And, finally:

XVII

Professional spirit

A high professional spirit calls for sound training, clear ethical standards, and sustained enthusiasm for the fellowship of librarians.

"Let me go where'er I will,
I hear a sky-born music still;
It sounds from all things old,
It sounds from all things young,
From all that's fair, from all that's foul,
Peals out a cheerful song.
It is not only in the rose,
It is not only in the bird,
Not only where the rainbow glows,
Nor in the song of woman heard;
But in the darkest, meanest things
There alway, alway something sings.
'Tis not in the high stars alone,
Nor in the cups of budding flowers,
Nor in the redbreast's mellow tone,
Nor in the bow that smiles in showers,
But in the mud and scum of things
There alway, alway something sings."

—Emerson.

Club Women and Programs

Kate Louise Roberts, Public library, Newark, N. J.

These suggestions on club programs are written with the purpose of arousing an expression from others who have had experience in the same work and who have found better methods for getting better results.

The writer confesses to having no academic way of working and whatever success has come is in consequence of a wide knowledge of club women and organizations and a keen interest in peeping into new things. There is a special fascination in planning a course of action for someone else to follow. There is the enthusiasm that comes in the preparation of a fresh exploration and one has the excitement of flitting from this to that phase of the subject, then—just where hard work begins the program maker gives it over to the club woman.

The Newark, N. J., public library has been active in the club work of that city and neighboring towns and villages, in the New Jersey federation of women's clubs and also in the National federation. From all over the country—North, East, South and West—requests for programs have been answered and book lists and other helps in club work have been prepared. This has come to be an interesting and almost an absorbing privilege. Interesting, because the reference librarian touches and skims over instructive material, which does not contribute to her profundity, of course, but which generally opens her eyes wider, broadens her views and gives her more areas of sympathy with other people's culture and their ologies and isms. Club work is now so much a feature of our reference department activities that it absorbs a great part of the time of one assistant.

It is a privilege to do this work, because through it the library reaches great numbers of students—women, girls and boys. It has advertised the

value of the public library in places where few other means have been successful. Well-to-do women of culture, whose good private libraries usually form an excuse for the neglect of the public libraries by themselves and families, have grown into the library habit through sheer admiration of its privileges in this department.

The system of "inter library loans" to club women has enabled us to increase the efficiency of neighboring small libraries, since we can refer their patrons back to those libraries with offers of loans of books and thus give the small institutions a value they never before were able to assume. The club women have used the library so actively and have grown so thoroughly appreciative that any appeal to them in aid of library affairs meets with quick sympathy.

It is for some such reasons as above, as well as because we are bound to show to the people their own property in its most attractive form, that we may have been stimulated to do our best in club work and program making. It comes back almost invariably in a kindly and generally an enthusiastic attitude about the library's place in the community.

It is not easy to tabulate the steps necessary in getting through the work of program making, for one's success with a program is largely experimental, and is often dependent on the mood at the time. Perhaps every reference librarian realizes that there are days when the faculties do not rise to the same illuminated state as at those other times when the recollecting powers are keenly alive and when appropriate topics or books almost insensibly roll off the records of the memory. Then, again, the women who come are themselves an agency in either brightening or dulling one's mental processes. A little chat with one woman may mean a "touch and go" of congenial impulses that results in what we confide (in a whisper) to each other, is brilliant

work. After planning a program, the club committee and the librarian often part in an ecstasy of delight, which subsides, however, as the season's work gets hotly in earnest and the weak points obtrude themselves, or members of the club flatly refuse to study some of the topics which seemed most imposing to the makers of the program. Sometimes one's heart sinks at the subject which a club insists upon studying or at the flatly dull way it plans to take up a live topic. A dead season's work looms up ahead in spite of the life, one egotistically thinks, could be put into it if the women would but see the librarian's point of view.

The idea at the start then is to induce the women to take a subject of present-day interest, or, if it be a purely cultural or literary one, such as Greek art, French renaissance, Robert Browning, then to insist that the treatment shall make that subject a live thing, related not only to the past, but to the present as well, so that anything worth studying shall be found a part of present-day culture. For instance, if Italy is the topic it may be isolated by the study of a series of unrelated things; buildings, eminent people, castles, ruins, arches, a monarch, a poet, etc., or it can be made a living whole through a study of its people; who and what they are; their origin and the climatic, geographical influences in their development; the use they made of their position; their social and historical epochs, as illustrated in the careers of great men and movements, art and literature, all of which stand as signposts of the race's evolution. Afterward comes a study of what the people stand for today in the human race, or, that nation's contribution to the humanities, which puts the student in touch with the people as part of herself. Then naturally one may stop with the Italian immigration and a discussion of whether the flooding of our country by that race may bring us good or ill.

There is hardly a topic which may

not be studied in this way. Architecture, for instance, we may take up in any order we please, but it should evolve into a study of the architecture near at home. If it has not led to a knowledge of the forms about us and to finer civic taste, it has failed in its cultural value. It is the same in art. The clubs are studying great masters and art periods and do not think it worth while to learn to distinguish art values in the common things of daily life and to develop ordinary good taste. Thus a period in art, literature, history, may be made to show its development from the past (what led to it) and its influence today (what we inherit from it).

One important rule is to find out, through a personal interview or letter, whether the study is to be superficial, popular, thorough, earnest or merely a diversion. In fact, what kind of people want it and what they will do with it. Whether they wish to treat it as a pastime, social entertainment, or real study. Then, as I said above, get it to belong somewhere.

If the members of the program committee refuse to look at it in this light, make out what seems to be the logical order of their ideas.

If a chronological order is insisted upon, try to make the periods logical. This generally means the study of a goodly number of books to settle one's own judgment.

I have watched the club work for many years and have seen that as a rule the little circles formed for self-culture develop into bodies of women ready to take up active pressing interests of public importance to the home. Almost all the clubs in the large cities have departments or committees for current topics, education and civic improvement, and the character of the programs of the leading clubs in the country has decidedly changed. Broad topics of human interest are now generally discussed. But the clubs are

making great efforts to cover too much ground at once.

The program maker must try to concentrate on the important things and struggle against spreading everything too thin. Get a number of women working on the few things rather than a few women taking up a number of unrelated things. There are, of course, exceptions to this rule, as, for instance, when a club was studying Switzerland and the subject for the day was the Lakes. There were a number of topics called "sidelights," only a few moments being given to each; the romances of the lakes; the tragedies; folk-lore; celebrated men of the region; notable resorts and a number of other sketches. It is not a bad idea to group things in this way for a popular club program. If the program is to be suggested and planned by the library, the worker must have ready a list of topics of the day which will interest women particularly and try to get out of the old rut of presentation of the same. Introduce new wording of old ideas, new ideas on old subjects probably, and, above all, a sequence of ideas that will result in bringing the student to a definite point whether she is conscious of it or not.

Aim at popularity and brightness for the superficial program, but make the women at least see things in a broad spirit through the relating of the topics. For instance, if the topic is the drama or the novel, make them touch the social force behind it so as to realize that the one relates to the other ("Society and the Drama" for instance).

Sometimes tell a club woman outright what you want to do and she will join you in trying to suggest the same to the club. At other times the atmosphere will be felt and you will say nothing but work at it quietly along with her own ideas.

As helps in getting suggestions for topics I would recommend chapters in books on the subject, where hints will

often be found from the way the author himself handles that chapter. Titles of books given in long book lists often supply an idea as to how a subject could be treated, or will give variations of the subject. Poole's index will often have lists of articles under the desired heading which will give fine thoughts for working up the topic. The encyclopædias often suggest a logical sequence of topics. Book lists of course are easy to get.

After all it is very much of a personal matter. The sifting of many books on a subject for the best outline of the work is a labor of love if the subject interest the program maker. However, it is the women for whom the program is made that must be considered, and the program maker ought to have an elastic mind and be able to take an interest in many things because the work calls for such many-sided views of many different affairs and movements. Topics are suggested by the University extension, the Albany extension and other lecture courses, and there is often much to be gained through a study of the point of view of the subjects taken by the makers of the syllabi. Robertson's "Courses of study" and Sonnenshein's "Best books," with their annotations, give a critic's point of view on a topic and often clarify a program maker's own plan of work by suggesting the books to look into on a given topic. Leypoldt & Iles, "Books for girls and women and their clubs" can be used with profit.

The vertical file kept in the reference room is a depository for good working material on almost all topics. Into these folders are slipped newspaper clippings and book lists and outlines of programs already made. These are often gratefully called into use.

A practical step is a consultation of the shelf where the books on the topic are kept, so that one may look through the chapter headings and notice the writer's analysis of his subject. One

may thus see how different authorities present the same topic in different lights. All sorts of combinations may then be made to please the taste of the program committee, omitting and adding at will. This is a great assistance, too, in the correct phrasing of one's expression of a subject.

In making out a program of a biographical nature the idea should be to throw the weight toward a study of the man's work itself. There is too great a tendency to spend time on studying about a man who has done something and not enough on the thing he has done. Long before we read books about what a man has written we ought to be familiar with what he has written. A discussion as to who wrote Shakespeare's works is eminently foolish when the discussers are unfamiliar with those works. Until that is done one may rest with satisfaction in the settlement of the question given by one expert, "I don't believe Shakespeare himself wrote them, but I think it was another man of the same name."

"A man only begins to be a man when he ceases to whine and revile, and commences to search for the hidden justice which regulates his life. And as he adapts his mind to that regulating factor, he ceases to accuse others as the cause of his condition, and builds himself up in strong and noble thoughts; ceases to complain against circumstances, but begins to use them as aids to his more rapid progress, and as a means of discovering the hidden possibilities within himself."

"Just as a gardener cultivates his plot, keeping it free from weeds, and growing the flowers and fruits which he requires, so may a man tend the garden of his mind, weeding out all the wrong and useless thoughts, and cultivating toward perfection the flowers and fruits of right and useful thoughts. Pursuing this process, a man sooner or later discovers that he is the master gardener of his soul, the director of his life."—James Allen.

Municipal Civil Service in Libraries*

Judson T. Jennings, Librarian, Public library,
Seattle, Wash.

Shortly after the Civil War what is known as the spoils system was introduced into the government departments at Washington. Under that system, or lack of system, appointments to positions in the government service were given to those persons having the strongest political influence and with little regard to their fitness for the work. At every change of administration thousands of employes were removed to make place for inexperienced workers from the incoming party. The evils of such a method soon became evident and resulted in efforts to check it. In 1871 a clause in the general appropriation bill authorized the president to appoint a commission to prescribe rules for admission to the civil service. Under this authority President Grant named the first civil service commission, but this first movement was entirely suspended in 1875. Two years later, in 1877, the Civil Service Reform league was organized. The real beginning was made in 1883, when Congress passed a bill for the remedy of the abuse known as the spoils system. This act empowered the president to determine from time to time by executive order what classes of the public service should come under the civil service law. The national civil service covered at first only 14,000 positions, but its scope has been extended from time to time, with slight revisions of the law, so that it now includes over 300,000 employes. The inauguration of the system at Washington has been followed by its adoption in many of the states and several cities, and the movement is still spreading.

Advantages

The chief advantage claimed for civil service may be stated briefly under five heads:

1) It is supposed to prevent appointments through political influence.

2) Theoretically it selects for each position the best qualified candidate.

3) It promotes continuity of service by protecting employes from removal when the administration changes, or for insufficient reasons.

4) The opportunity for appointment is open to every citizen.

5) It is supposed to save the time of the appointing officer.

Later on in this outline, when we come to consider the workings of the system, I think I shall be able to prove that many of these so-called advantages are theoretical and that some of them are really disadvantages.

There is no question but that the operation of the civil service law has resulted in marked improvement in the service in the departments at Washington and elsewhere, for such positions as could be fairly well filled by competitive examination and where the only alternative was the spoils system. Where the appointing officer is likely to be a politician filling office, or perhaps disgracing it, for a stated term of years, and subject to pressure from other politicians higher up, civil service is necessary. We resort to a mechanical scheme, because the official who should select the assistants is incompetent or powerless. But if, on the other hand, the person making the appointments holds office during good behavior or while efficient, and is under the control and direction of a slowly changing, non-partisan board of commissioners, and is, furthermore, spending his life in that particular kind of work so that his own success is wrapped up in the real success of the work under his charge, then, I say, civil service is not only unnecessary, but it is a serious handicap.

That the actual workings of civil service are ideal, even its staunchest supporters do not claim. It is merely an improvement on the spoils system. I believe that the time will come when

*A brief prepared in behalf of a bill to exempt the public library from the civil service system in Seattle. The bill was finally passed.

public offices will be filled by competent men and when public business will be as well administered as private enterprise. When that time comes, such artificial and mechanical methods as civil service for the selection of assistants will be discarded.

Its limitations are shown and admitted in various ways, as by removing from the competitive list certain positions requiring technical or special training, as well as positions of a confidential nature and those in which personality is an important qualification. Such educational institutions as schools and libraries are exempted in most of the civil service systems or codes. In this connection it should be noted that while civil service is in force in most of the departments at Washington, it is not applied to the Library of Congress. The Librarian of Congress has the authority to select and employ the best available assistants without regard to place of residence and without examination. The question of placing the Library of Congress under national civil service was discussed at great length by a congressional committee in 1897, when that library was thoroughly reorganized and placed in its new building. (Senate Reports, 54th Cong., 2d Sess., 1896-1897, v. 3.)

Several prominent librarians were called to testify before this committee. It was finally decided to leave the power of appointment in the hands of the librarian without civil service restrictions. The wisdom of that decision has since been amply justified. It would be hard to find today a better-managed library or a more efficient staff.

A few extracts from the evidence given at this investigation are worth quoting, but it must be borne in mind that some of the librarians were referring to library, or internal, civil service, while others meant municipal and national, or external, civil service. Even the report of the Civil service commission (14th annual report) in dis-

cussing this testimony fails to make this distinction:

Mr Spofford, Librarian of Congress, testified: "I think that the librarian who is responsible for the results in so great and useful an institution should have the selection of the means of accomplishing those results by the aid that is to be given him; and that relates not only to the administration and service of the books and information to be given, but to the catalog department, which is of cardinal importance. That is to say, such special service demands an expert knowledge, wide experience and judgment, and any mistake that might be made would be serious in that department and in others."

Melvil Dewey, State librarian of New York: "The head of the library should have power to dispense with the services of anyone found incompetent for his place and of the people who become mere machines and do their work perfunctorily, only to get out as soon as their hours are over."

Representative Quigg asked Mr Putnam, then librarian at Boston: "Should you be willing to have the selection of your employees so far taken out of your hands that you were compelled to choose from a list of two or three alleged-to-be-qualified persons, which list was submitted to you by a board of examiners over which you had no authority?"

Mr Putnam: "I should be willing only in place of worse evils, if I saw those to exist; I mean greater embarrassments. . . . It is much easier to test technical library training, library science, than it is to test persons of administrative ability. . . . I should say that if the Librarian of Congress is absolutely free from political control in the selection of his men, if he will not have to recommend persons who are forced upon him, then it is safe to leave it to him. . . . I believe that librarians, in general, if they have the responsibility vested in them, will not misuse their authority. . . ."

"I believe so much in the centering of responsibility and I deem it of so much advantage that the men who are finally responsible should choose their subordinates, that I would not altogether favor a civil service in the selection of employees in the congressional library."

Mr Fletcher, librarian of Amherst college, testified: "I am not prepared to recommend a system by which any library is brought under any sort of supervision from outside parties."

Mr Harris, commissioner of education, testified in favor of "efficient clerks, such as library schools furnish, because they can

do more work in a day each than six unskilled persons can do."

Mr Putnam was afterward appointed Librarian of Congress and had an opportunity to put his theories into practice. After nine years' experience, he wrote in answer to our questions:

"During the past nine years political influence has not impaired the efficiency of appointments to the Library of Congress, although this was not protected by the civil service system. That it has not done so is due in part to patient representation and consistent action by the librarian, but also to the fundamental desire of Congress as a whole to promote efficiency in the service. . . .

"Applicants quite commonly write to senators or representatives asking their influence or recommendations, and communications are frequently received from senators and representatives. They are treated as introductions, but see paragraph in red at the head of the application form."

The paragraph which is printed in red ink at the head of the form reads as follows:

"In view of these requirements, any recommendations or 'endorsements' of a political nature are not merely unnecessary but a disadvantage to the applicant as suggesting considerations in the appointment not recognized by law."

He also adds:

"The decision of the librarian in dismissal, as in appointment, is final."

The St Louis Public library board wrote us:

"An independent, non-partisan board supported by a separate tax is better than civil service commission.

"Our practice is to appoint a librarian who has charge of the library and who is held to account for the results. He selects all his assistants, subject to the approval of the board. The civil service principle prevails. . . . The library has been entirely free from partisan political influence from its first organization. Neither party has ever attempted to acquire control of it."

Senator Lodge, who is an ardent advocate of civil service, in discussing the question on the floor of the senate, made the following admission:

(Cong. Rec., 55th Cong., 2d Sess., v. 31, pp. 159-163.

"Nor do I undertake to defend the merit

system as an ideal or as an absolutely perfect system. Very few things of human manufacture, I think, are perfect. Certainly the reform system of the civil service is not. . . .

"The real proposition in regard to the present system. . . is that it is a great deal better than the patronage system. . . . If the head of a bureau or department could select his own subordinates, there would be little or no need of competitive examinations, or of any artificial system to select them for him. . . . If the man responsible for the work of the bureau or department selected his own subordinates, he would certainly select good ones, for his own credit and reputation would be bound up in the success of his administration. But when they are forced upon him from outside, then we have. . . the injurious condition of one set of persons selecting subordinates and another being responsible for their work."

C. D. Willard, writing on "Civil Service in American Cities" (*Outlook* 76:939), says:

"The drawbacks of the civil service reform methods are those that arise inevitably out of the effort to apply any general system—necessarily more or less rigid—to so large and complicated a proposition as that of securing hundreds or thousands of helpers in a great variety of lines of work. The commission and their examining force, unfortunately, are not inspired, and they sometimes make mistakes. Excellent men fail to pass the examination and those of mediocre ability manage to pull through. Heads of departments are occasionally cursed with men who are too good to throw out and not good enough to keep. Worse than all else, the commissioners themselves are now and then accused of 'playing politics,' and in some cases the accusation has been true."

An editorial in the *Canadian Magazine* (v. 26:607), referring to Wisconsin's state civil service laws, says:

"There are necessarily certain persons exempt from the control of the commission. These comprise chiefly those elected by the people, all professors, teachers and librarians, and heads of reformatory, charitable and penal institutions."

The librarian of Indianapolis wrote:

"The law of Indiana governing libraries of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants says: 'The librarian shall have the sole power to appoint and discharge all assistants in the library.' This is later qualified by providing that if written charges of in-

competency be preferred against any employe, a four-fifths vote of the board of directors shall discharge the accused."

Purd B. Wright, librarian at St Joseph, Mo., writes in the discussion on civil service in the *Library Journal* (31:705):

"As most library boards are constituted, little can be said for the intervention of another body in library management. Library trustees serve without compensation and are usually recognized as among the most prominent citizens of the community. They are interested in the library and its work, and proud of its success. They stand for good service, and, if left to themselves, will install a civil service so much the superior of anything a disinterested board will devise, so far as the library is concerned, as to permit of no comparison. There is absolutely no reason for making it [the board] secondary to any authority, other than the broad ones of limitation and review of expenditures."

[To be continued.]

Public Libraries and a State Civil Service Law

At the request of the Civil service commission of the state the Free public library of Newark, N. J., sent the following question to 27 of the prominent libraries in this country.

Is it practicable to hold competitive civil service examinations for heads of departments of public libraries, and subject all such appointees thereto, without impairment of the efficiency of the library service?

Twenty-five libraries answered this question in the negative, many enforcing the negative with reasons. Only two answered in the affirmative and then only with qualifications. Appended is a list of the libraries:

Atlanta, Ga.	New Haven, Conn.
Baltimore, Md.	New York Public.
Binghamton, N. Y.	Paterson, N. J.
Boston, Mass.	Peoria, Ill.
Brooklyn, N. Y.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Buffalo, N. Y.	Queensboro Public.
Cincinnati, Ohio.	St Joseph, Mo.
Cleveland, Ohio.	Scranton, Pa.
Detroit, Mich.	Seattle, Wash.
Grand Rapids, Mich.	Somerville, Mass.
Jersey City, N. J.	Toledo, Ohio.
Kansas City Public.	Wilmington, Del., Institute.
Louisville, Ky.	
Minneapolis, Minn.	Worcester Public.

Some Magazine Editors

Malcolm G. Wyer, librarian, University of Iowa, Iowa City

The editors of some of the more important of our American general periodicals are here given. It often is of interest to know who edits some magazine, or who the editor was at a certain time or period; and many times such information is difficult to find on short notice. The present list is complete for only a few of the magazines, but it is thought to be accurate in all cases. Citation is given, whenever it has been possible, to magazine articles that have sketches or portraits of the editors:

American Magazine, 1906

- 1906- Phillips, John S.
Associate editor.
1906- Steffens, J. Lincoln (Critic 44: 400, 407).
1906- Tarbell, Ida M. (McClure 19: 588).

Arena, 1889

- 1889-96 Flower, B. O. (Portrait, Arena 24:449).
1897-98 Ridpath, J. C. (Portrait, Chau-tauquan 32:12; Portrait, Independent 52:2795).
1898-99 Tyner, Paul.
1899-1900 McLean, J. E.
1900- Fanning, N. O.
1900- Flower, B. O.

Atlantic Monthly, 1857

- (See Atlantic Monthly 80:571 and 100:577.)
1857-61 Lowell, J. R.
1861-71 Fields, James T.
1871-80 Howells, W. D.
1880-90 Aldrich, T. B.
1890-99 Scudder, Horace E.
1899- Perry, Bliss.

Bookman, 1895

- Peck, Harry T. (Bookman 18: 179, 19:452).
Colby, Frank M. (Bookman 15:127).
Assistant editor.
MacArthur, James (Critic, 36: 112; Reader 4:456).
Maurice, Arthur B. (Current Literature 28:142; Critic 44:322).

Century Magazine, 1881

- 1881- Holland, Dr J. G. (Critic 1: 292; Century 1:161; Book Buyer 22:188).
1881- Gilder, R. W. (Bookman 12:358; Book News 8:208).
Associate editor.

- 1881- Johnson, Robert U. (Bookman 27:385; Critic 42:231, portrait).
Collier's Weekly, 1877
 Robinson, Nugent.
 Hazeltine, Mayo.
 Chamber, Julius.
 1893-95 Connery, Thos. B.
 1898- Collier, Robert J. (Critic 44:324; World's Work 11:7358, portrait; Reader 8:96).
Cosmopolitan, 1886
 1889-1905 Walker, John B. (Bookman 12:359, 365).
 1905-1907 Millard, F. Bailey.
 1907-1908 Chamberlain, S. S.
 1908- Narcross, C. P.
Country Life in America, 1901
 1901-1902 Bailey, Liberty H. (World's Work 17:10828, portrait).
 1901- Miller Wilhelm.
 1904-1907 Gleason, A. H.
 1905- Dyer, Walter A.
 1906-1909 Saylor, Henry H.
 1906- Miller, Claude H.
Current Literature, 1888
 1888-92 Somers, Frederick M.
 1892-94 Jordan, William G.
 1895-96 Carman, Bliss (Bookman 11:519; Critic 29:164, 40:155).
 1897-1900 Godwin, Harold.
 1900-1901 Hale, William B.
 1902-1903 Goodman, Jules E.
 1904- Spahr, Charles B. (Outlook 78:114; Current Literature 37:292).
 1905- Wheeler, Edward J. (Critic 44:328; Chautauquan 35:346; portrait).
Dial, 1880
 1880- Browne, Francis F. (Bookman 11:202; Harper's Weekly 44:542; World Today 9:1252).
Everybody's Magazine, 1900
 1900- Cosgrave, John O'Hara (Critic 44:325).
Forum, 1886
 Metcalf, Lorretus S.
 Rice, Dr. J. M.
 Cooper, Frederick Taber.
Harper's Bazar, 1868
 Jordan, Elizabeth G. (Bookman 12:366, 27:158; Critic 36:100).
Harper's Magazine, 1850
 Harper, Fletcher (Harper's Magazine 100:947, portrait).
 Guernsey, Alfred H.
 1869- Alden, Henry M. (Outlook 90:708; Bookman 12:358; Current Literature 39:387).
Harper's Weekly, 1856
 1900- Harvey, George.
Independent, 1848
 (See Independent, December 10, 1908.)
Ladies' Home Journal, 1883
 1883-89 Curtis, Mrs Louise Knapp.
 1889- Bok, Edward W. (Bookman 12:360).
Literary Digest, 1890
 Bliss, E. M.
 Wright, J. T.
 1895-1905 Wheeler, Edward J.
 1905- Woods, William S.
McClure's Magazine, 1893
 1893- McClure, S. S. (Bookman 12:360; Outlook 81:745).
Nation, 1865
 1865-99 Godkin, Edwin L. (Outlook 64:285; Nation 74:403, 76:307; World's Work 4:2264).
 1899-1906 Garrison, Wendell Phillips (Dial 42:173; Nation 84:217).
 1906- Lamont, Hammond.
North American Review, 1815
 1899- Harvey, George (Bookman 18:309; Outlook 81:745).
Outlook, 1869
 1870-81 Beecher, Henry W.
 1881- Abbott, Dr Lyman.
 Associate editor.
 1884- Mabie, Hamilton W. (Book News 26:1; Book Buyer 18:279).
Review of Reviews, 1890
 1891- Shaw, Albert.
St Nicholas, 1863
 1873-1905 Dodge, Mrs Mary Mapes (St Nicholas 82:1059; Century 71:156; Critic 47:290).
 1905- Clarke, William F.
Saturday Evening Post, 1728
 1898-99 Jordan, W. G.
 1899- Lorimer, George H. (Bookman 20:181; World's Work 9:5538; Critic 42:488).
Scribner's Magazine, 1887
 1887- Burlingame, Edward L. (Scribner 16:801; Bookman 12:358).
Woman's Home Companion
 Kirkpatrick, T. J.
 1902-1907 Vance, Arthur T. (Critic 44:328).
 1907- Collins, Frederick L.
World's Work, 1900
 Page, Walter H. (Bookman 12:360).

The Public Library in Japan

T. Sano, librarian, Public library, Yamaguchi, Japan.

As the Japan-China war resulted, in one sense, in the increase of the middle schools in Japan from 73 in 1893 to 156 in 1897, so has the Japan-Russian war resulted among other things in the increase of the public libraries from 100 in 1904 to 213 at the beginning of 1909.

It was only in 1899 that our present library regulation was issued, which authorized prefectures, counties, cities, towns or villages to establish and maintain public libraries at their expense; and, in 1906, some amendments were made to promote the rank of the public libraries.

In 1900 the Department of education distributed a hand-book on library economy, compiled by I. Tanaka, librarian of Imperial library; and at about the same time the minister of education instructed the governors of the several prefectures to encourage the establishment of popular libraries. The same instruction was given again in 1907. In 1908 the Education department opened a summer school in Tokyo, lectures being given on library economy and library buildings. It was well attended, and credits were given to 43 librarians, teachers and school inspectors. This is the first library training undertaken by our government.

There are now in Japan, 213 libraries, exclusive of those attached to universities, colleges and government bureaus, which are not open to the public.

There are some libraries in Japan by far larger and better equipped and with a far larger income than ours; but ours is modeled after as a typical public library of medium size and moderate expense. For the efficiency of a library is one thing, while its size, edifice or income is quite another thing.

This library is in a one-story wooden building, with a newly built two-story book storage, 30x36 feet. The equipment is simple, and we have no special feature to mention. The general read-

ing room accommodates 90, the reference and the ladies' room each 16, and the magazine room and the children's corner about 80. The general reading room is furnished with open shelves with about 5000 v. This is the very first experience in Japan in what you call "open shelves," and as it has proved successful—no volumes of any importance having been missed in these two years—we are determined to partly open the newly built storage of books to more advanced readers. The public is informed of new accessions of books through the bulletin, which is issued from time to time. During the current year of 1908, the library was opened 341 days, 141,543 v. were used—104,353 for reference and 37,190 for circulation.

Our larger libraries charge entrance fee to every visitor—we say "visitor," for the libraries are chiefly used for reference, circulation being very limited. With ours, every person above 20 years of age who lives within the prefecture and pays the prefectural tax and is known to be creditable by the librarian is privileged to draw our books, two at a time, for a term ranging between two weeks and one month. All other people are entitled to the same privilege when guaranteed by some such person.

This library is more than a public library. It combines in itself the work of your public library, your state library, and your state library commission, though on a very small scale. It is true that we have no control over other libraries in the prefecture; as, however, we send our traveling libraries to them, I inspect them usually once a year, and such suggestions and aids are given them as I consider advisable. Book selections and similar other assistance are given to those who are planning to organize a library.

How timely and how welcome was the introduction into Japan of the traveling library organized after the New York system may be shown from the fact that in 1904, when our first trav-

eling library was sent out, there were in this prefecture only two libraries besides ours, but the succeeding five years have witnessed an increase of 29. Of the 213 libraries above quoted, 32 are in this prefecture, receiving our traveling libraries every four months.

Our traveling libraries are lent, besides secondary schools and county offices, to registered libraries in towns and villages. One lent to a town or village library is quite an inspiration to the neighboring districts to induce the people to organize a permanent library themselves, to which our traveling library is lent. In the current year of 1908, 106 traveling libraries, aggregating 8350 v. returned to us after remaining for four months in the stations, from which 28,039 were circulated. They reached 43 different communities.

In the first annual report of the Yamaguchi public library, 1905, I announced that the introduction of the traveling library might prove an epoch-making in the Japanese library movement. I am not in the position now to conclude, myself, how it has proved; but requests come to us from every part of Japan for information relative to the conduct and organization of our traveling libraries, and the work is speedily spreading over the country. While our larger libraries are chiefly made use of by more advanced readers, our traveling libraries have done much toward popularizing the idea and use of a library.

I am proud to consider this library as the representative in the Far East of the American free public library system, putting the best reading before the largest number at the least cost.

I owe much to the inspiration and practical help I have received from Dr Melvil Dewey, who has been most kind always in answering my inquiries and in sending me valuable information about library progress. I am glad to acknowledge my debt of gratitude and to say how much I esteem him.

A Magazine Campaign

In a recent number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES President Hadley said: "The university library must spend relatively large amounts of money on current periodicals, as compared with books, because there more than anywhere else are exemplified the results and methods of current research."

This is the day of the periodical in every kind of a library, so the story of one institution's effort to strengthen its periodical collection at small cost may be of interest.

As usual, the winter rush began to slacken about the middle of March. The bustling month of the inventory was still six weeks ahead. Here was a fine opportunity for undertaking some special piece of work. The sight and sound of universal house-cleaning and carpet-beating furnished the suggestion. Now would be a propitious time for the magazine campaign.

A list of the magazines indexed in Poole and the *Readers' Guide* was sent to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board, with the suggestion that when the housewife should come to the dusty closet under the stairs, she should see whether there were not some piles of old magazines that the library could use. If so, she need only call the library on the 'phone to be relieved of what to her was mere litter and junk. Incidentally she would be performing a virtuous action, and proving herself a patron of letters. This suggestion was irresistible. In a fortnight 4000 magazines had been received. Of course, three-fourths of them were duplicates, for there were already over 1000 v. of bound magazines on the shelves. But out of the remainder were assembled 161 complete volumes of indexed periodicals. These had cost just \$3.25—for cartage.

A good binder would charge about \$125 for binding this number of volumes, even in workaday buckram. This sum is more than the meager purse can afford, save in the case of the mag-

azines that are subjected to the hardest wear. So the following expedient, which has before proved a happy resource in time of financial stringency, is resorted to:

First the covers are removed from the magazines, especially clean and attractive ones being reserved for a subsequent use. Next the ends of the villainous wire ties are pried up and the wires removed with the aid of an old pair of scissors and a pair of pincers. Then all advertising pages are torn off, and the numbers are tied up in complete volumes as before. These volumes are then sent to the local printer, who—at a cost of a few cents for each—trims off the soiled edges, and sews the numbers of each volume together with stout thread. A very little glue is also added to solidify the back. The printer furnishes also for each volume two pieces of gray millboard (such as is used in making picture-bulletins) cut to the right size for the sides. The magazines, thus sewed together in volumes, are then returned to the library, where each volume is "forwarded" in the following manner:

First the attractive paper cover, saved from one of the separate numbers, is pasted on one of the pieces of millboard to form the front cover of the book. Then two strips of black cambric are cut, each from two and a half to three inches in width, according to the thickness of the volume. One is of the same length as the boards which form the sides, the other is about an inch and a half longer. The boards are then laid side by side on the table, face down, leaving a gap between a trifle wider than the thickness of the volume. The shorter piece of cambric is then pasted to the edge of each board, bridging the gap between them, and joining them together. Any overhanging ends are trimmed off evenly at head and tail of the boards. They joined boards, thus destined to form the cover, are then turned over, so as to lie face

up; and the other and longer strip of cambric (forming the outside back of the cover) is pasted against its fellow and the outsides of the boards. Its overhanging ends at head and tail are then turned in and pasted down. When the paste is dry, the sewed volume is fitted into this cover and sewed to the back of the cover with strong, black carpet thread. In order to make it secure, the needle is passed through the second signature from each side, not through the two outside signatures. The stitches should be of an even length. About one inch is best. To prevent dog's-ears, the four corners are sheathed in black silk adhesive cloth (Gaylord's), one inch wide. A piece two inches long will sheathe a corner. Two of Dennison's oblong, octagonal labels (No. A16) may then be pasted across the back, one a couple of inches from the head, the other equidistant from the tail. The first is lettered in India ink with the title of the magazine, the second with volume number and date. Then our newly bound volume is complete and ready for entrance in the accession book. It is neat and workmanlike in appearance, the only blemishes being the dozen stitches on the back. Of black thread on a black ground, these are scarcely noticeable.

It is not expected that this home-made binding will prove as durable as professional work, but it is thought that it will stand for a long time the ordinary wear and tear to which bound magazines that do not circulate are subjected. The total cost, including all materials and all work done outside of the library, is 10 cents a volume.

If these 161 v. of bound magazines had been bought in the open market they would have cost \$150 at the least. By following the method described, they have cost just \$19.35. There are also 150 v. of duplicate magazines filed away in the cellar, as additional fruits of this quest. Some day will come an opportunity for the sale or exchange of these.

ASA DON DICKINSON.

Library Training in Indiana

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the May issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES under News of library schools, the statement was made that "The fate of the Indiana library school at this time is problematic. Miss Hoagland, director of the school, had introduced into the last legislature a bill," etc. Since the above was printed, several letters have been received at the Public library commission office which would indicate that there is confusion in the minds of a number of people as to the Indiana library school and the summer library school conducted by the Public library commission of Indiana. As several librarians who had contemplated doing work at this year's summer library school conducted by the commission, read the article in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, will you please favor me with space in which to say that there is no connection whatever, either personal or official, between the Indiana library school and the Summer library school, or the Indiana library school and the Public library commission of Indiana; that the Indiana library school is under a private corporation and that the summer library school is under the Public library commission of this state, which for seven years has conducted such schools and will hold its eighth summer library school at Earlham college, Richmond, Ind., as has been announced.

CHALMERS HADLEY, Sec'y.

It will interest librarians to learn that Theodore Stanton, a manual of American literature, which has just been issued by Putnam's at \$1.75 net, is published abroad as No. 4000 of the Tauchnitz edition at 2.20 mk., about 50 cents. The volume in the Tauchnitz edition is well printed on good paper, but small in size; the contents of the two editions are exactly the same, with the exception of the last chapter on periodicals, which has a few lines additional in the American edition.

G. E. STECHERT & Co.

May 15, 1909.

Library Instruction in Normal Schools

Since President Felmley's address on this subject at the N. E. A. last summer, we have received several letters asking about the instruction given here. It was impossible to answer at once, and now that an informal account has been prepared I find that some of the letters are missing. If those who care for the information will kindly take the trouble to write again, the leaflet shall be sent to them promptly.

ANGE V. MILNER.

Illinois State normal university, Normal, Ill.

Expansive Classification

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

After long delay, due, in part, to a difference of opinion as to the extent of expansion necessary in the scientific classes of the Expansive Classification, printing has begun, and I hope to have it all issued during this year, except the index. Practically all is in manuscript. No one has regretted more than I the delay; but I feel that it has resulted in a more usable classification.

W. P. CUTTER.

Illinois State Library School

The annual meeting and dinner of the Alumni association of the Illinois state library school is called for Tuesday evening, June 29, at Breton Woods, N. H. This year, the conference being so far out of the usual field of Illinois graduates, a small meeting is anticipated. For this reason each member who expects to attend is asked to send her name to the secretary, Bertha Randall, Carnegie library, Pittsburg, at once, so that committees may be appointed from among those in attendance.

Notice is hereby given that some changes in the constitution will come up for action.

LINDA M. CLATWORTHY,
President.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
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Public Libraries does not appear in August and September and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

Ethics of librarianship—Just before the annual meeting of the American library association it is most opportune that Mr Bolton has voiced what has been in the minds of many for a long while, namely, that some one should enumerate certain principles which have seemed sometimes in danger of being overlooked. There are other ideas which might be embodied in other canons, and it would be a very helpful thing if the A. L. A. would take cognizance of the matter and give the result to the library world. There is a good beginning in Mr Bolton's article for really important conclusions.

"The good men do lives after them"—Too little has been communicated to the public, and even to the narrower circle of library workers and bibliographers, on the lives and personal traits of our great librarians, and thanks are due to the D. C. Library association for gathering into a beautiful volume* the records of the meeting commemorative of the long, wonderfully active, peculiarly useful and happy life of Dr Ainsworth Rand Spofford.

*See page 246.

We of younger years stand in need of records of just such lives as his. We that have seen this nestor of American librarians only during his years of physical decline, are glad to know what was the experience with him of those that knew him personally and professionally in earlier days. Dr Putnam's graceful remarks yields some of the revelation of the personal traits of his illustrious predecessor, and they are rendered in a manner that leaves no doubt of the spirit in which Dr Spofford's work of construction has been continued and is now being completed for our national library.

Amidst this work of high ambition and ideal aims there arises one conspicuous fact—how Dr Spofford succeeded, with but limited means at his disposal, in gathering into the Library of Congress a large number of rare and intrinsically valuable works. Those who have been privileged to work with these collections know what a large proportion of classical and permanently valuable works in every field of knowledge the library possesses. As a collector of such Dr Spofford will forever afford a brilliant example.

Librarians are apt to relapse from time to time into asking what is the compensation for that routine and daily grind that roll down upon us, increasing in their demands upon exactness and mental buoyancy as the years go by. We will derive much compensation from knowing that the life of a librarian can even now be lived to the utmost. Its outward attributes—position, books and a building—all fell to the share of this man because his inner attributes were perfectly measured and balanced—a lofty deal, free-

dom of spirit, a sense of books and a full appreciation of their importance to the life of man and nation.

An interesting development—There is gratifying evidence of a growing appreciation in business circles of the value of the services of a person trained in library technique, not for the thing itself, but for the application of that training to accumulated material in business houses. The well-known work of Mr Lee with the Stone & Webster people has demonstrated beyond question the economic value of having classified and indexed material at hand for people who need it most, without loss of time and with the smallest possible effort on the part of its users.

Following this idea that the technique of a trained librarian in accordance with the most approved methods is appealing strongly to business houses, the Franklin Manufacturing Company of Syracuse, the Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago, the National City Bank of New York and the Kimball Company of Kansas City are the latest to apply the principles of classification and indexing to their printed material. The president of the last-named company says regarding the matter: "Classification by the average filing clerk is an impossibility, but I predict that the time is not far distant when there will be a standard system of classification and filing for business memoranda, and that the scientific and successful business enterprises will have each its librarian, from whom the filing clerk as of today will perform the functions of a library messenger."

The late lamented Dr Canfield pointed out in these pages some time ago (see

PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 11:44-46) that this state of affairs was at that time rapidly developing and there is abundant evidence today of the truth of his predictions. A phase of it that should interest library students is a wider knowledge of the principles on which business is conducted. The economical side of questions, unfortunately, is not very strongly developed in the modern classification in library economy. It is here, therefore, that particular attention should be paid this new avenue of activity by those who are taking the courses in the various library schools.

A better knowledge of business customs and principles is desirable for those who will follow only regular channels in library business. Of this there can be no doubt, and if this training be given more thoroughly than at present, it will, from a monetary point of view, if nothing more, make the services of the librarian much more valuable in the labor market when the time comes for him to enter active service.

Public library situation in Chicago—The present library situation in Chicago is full of interest. According to the report of the City club of Chicago, the city stands second in population, fifth in expenditure for the public library and its service, and leads all other cities in the proportion of the expenditure that is devoted to the salaries of library employees. It is fourth in the total amount paid for salaries. The library income of Chicago is placed third. These things have started discussion along many lines. It is safe to say that never in the history of the library has there been such an awakening of interest on the part of the general public in the

affairs of the library. The situation, therefore, is not only full of interest, but full of hope for the future welfare of the library.

According to law, appointments to the staff of the Chicago public library are governed by the State civil service system. The present civil service commissioner, however, has the broadest conception of his duty as it relates to the library, and is thoroughly concerned that the civil service system shall apply to the library only for the protection of its best interests and in no way to interfere with anything that will make for the growth and betterment of the library as a strong educational institution.

The present board of public library directors contains more members who are thoroughly alive to the demands of the situation than has been the case for many years.

The action looking toward the appointment of an advisory committee of five members to inquire into the present condition of the Chicago public library and to suggest real improvements in the administration and extension of library service, is tremendously important. It offers an opportunity which has not been excelled in this country and which may be likened to the action which led to the appointment of a British commission in 1849. The latter, as is well known, was the beginning of the day of public library progress, and its report is a valuable document in library history. The action of the Chicago library board provides that the president of the University of Chicago and the president of Northwestern university be invited to nominate three members who shall

be citizens of Cook county, and the Librarian of Congress be requested to name two members who shall be specialists of recognized standing and wide experience in library administration and service. This ought to bring together such a commission that its investigation and report will be of a character to mark another epoch in the progress of library development. Their investigations could be made to have a far-reaching influence. The whole subject and scope of library extension would come legitimately under their consideration, and many things could be made clear about which there is uncertainty today in library circles, outside of Chicago as well as here.

If this commission can be promptly appointed and can perform promptly the duties for which it is appointed, the task of appointing a librarian for the Chicago public library will be an easy one. A report properly prepared would furnish such an illumination of the subject as would give the person appointed at once full knowledge of how to meet the situation, such as he would not be able to gather for himself in years.

Appointment to the Chicago public library, as was said before, is governed by civil service laws. The present commissioner of civil service recognizes the value of expert help in the various departments controlled by the civil service system. He is minded, therefore, to appoint such a board of examiners to meet the requirement of the law, as shall make their certification of any librarian as being capable of taking charge of the public library of the second largest city in the country, an honor that may not be treated

lightly by anyone in library ranks today. The situation calls for a large amount of ability. There is absolutely no limit to the work that could be done by the Chicago public library.

The question of salary (it is stated by those who are acquainted with conditions) will be secondary to obtaining the services of a desirable person to take charge of affairs. The civil service commission and the board of directors are working in harmony and are in perfect accord as to the importance of the duty that devolves upon each body, and upon both. A commission of the library board to inquire into conditions in Chicago, and making recommendations for properly meeting these conditions, will greatly aid the board appointed by the civil service commission in choosing from the information placed at their disposal and their personal knowledge of the persons under consideration for librarian, to arrive at a conclusion that will be satisfactory to all concerned. Again, it may be conceded that the occasion is full of interest, marks an important epoch, and the final results will be a valuable contribution to the history of library development.

An offer of space for A. L. A. headquarters—At a meeting of the board of trustees of the Chicago public library on May 13, Acting-librarian Roden presented the matter of, allowing space in the public library building, for the A. L. A. to remove its headquarters to Chicago, as was voted at the Minnetonka meeting last summer. After a little discussion it was voted unanimously that a tender of space be made to the association through the A. L. A. secretary.

The matter will therefore come before the association at Bretton Woods and it is to be hoped that there such a satisfactory final arrangement can be made as shall put to rest the uncertainty that has nullified from the first all efforts in regard to headquarters.

There were four offers from the Chicago Association of Commerce relative to rented quarters in Chicago, sent to the executive board during the past year, but the offer of the Chicago public library board is, by all means, the most advantageous that could be desired, and, as it removes the objection voiced in Mr Hill's resolution of last summer, leaves nothing in the way of starting the business of the association on a new lease of activity, except for the appointment of the proper person as executive officer.

The N. E. A. sets the A. L. A. an example here. Its headquarters in the Middle West are in charge of a man with his eyes open to the educational value of his work, which is conducted solely for the welfare of the association, with no thought of personal glory or comfort. There is no reason why the A. L. A. cannot have the same. The person in charge should be chosen because of his ability to grow with the proposition, to meet the needs of libraries, associations and individuals, which needs are now carried in various ways; to speak for the library cause as occasion demands, to give counsel as opportunities arise; to be loyal to his position and faithful to his fellow workers.

The A. L. A. has a great opportunity now, to turn a new page, to write anew "whatsoever things are of good repute," and forgetting the headquarters trials that are behind, to press "toward the mark for the prize of our high calling"—Fidelity.

A. L. A. Matters

At a meeting of the executive board of the A. L. A., held in Buffalo, April 15, action was taken requiring that each paper submitted and read at the next meeting must be in form for publication, as no proof will be available for correction afterward. Copy of all discussions will be submitted for revision.

An invitation from the International institute of bibliography, looking toward participation by the A. L. A. in an international congress of librarians, to be held in Brussels in 1910, was presented and referred to the council.

A communication from the League of library commissions urged a selection of such a date for the annual conference of the A. L. A. in the future as shall not conflict with the time of the summer schools.

A detailed report submitted by the treasurer showed the cash available to be \$4828.99.

Bretton Woods program schedule

- Saturday, June 26:
 Evening—Council.
 Monday, June 28:
 Forenoon—Executive board.
 Afternoon—American association of law libraries.
 Evening—First general session.
 Tuesday, June 29:
 Forenoon—Second general session.
 Afternoon—College and reference section, Children's section, Trustees section.
 Evening—Library school reunions.
 Wednesday, June 30:
 Forenoon—Third general session.
 Afternoon—National association of state libraries, Catalog section.
 Evening—National association of state libraries and American association of law libraries, Children's section.
 Thursday, July 1:
 Mount Washington or Crawford Notch.
 Friday, July 2:
 Forenoon—College and reference section, League of library commissions, Annual election.
 Afternoon—National association of state libraries, Catalog section.
 Evening—Fourth general session.
 Saturday, July 3:
 Forenoon—League of library commissions, Council.
 Afternoon—Fifth general session.

Monday, July 5:

Forenoon—Post-conference "Mountain and Shore" coaching party starts.

1909 Post-conference itinerary

The post-conference trip this year will consist of two parts—first, a coaching trip around Presidential Range, covering much of the most beautiful portion of the White mountain region, this to be followed by a trip to some point on the Maine coast between Portsmouth and Portland for a stay of three or four days. This part is especially planned for those from outside of New England who are not familiar with the beautiful Maine coast, and will prove a restful finish to the trip for all. In the place chosen we shall endeavor to combine smooth beach, rugged cliffs, and forest-covered hills, with possibilities for tramping, climbing, riding, trolley excursions, fishing and sailing.

It is arranged, however, so that those who wish to take only the mountain coaching trip may omit the shore portion of the post-conference. The itinerary will be as follows:

Leave Bretton Woods Monday, July 5, 8 a. m., by mountain wagons, each holding 11 passengers, reaching Randolph, the northern base of Mts Adams and Madison, for lunch, thence to Gorham (N. H.) for the night.

The second day's route will be from Gorham to Jackson through the beautiful "Glen" at the easterly base of Mt Washington, and Pinkham Notch, with stop at Crystal Cascade and Glen Ellis Falls.

The third day from Jackson to Intervale or North Conway, where the fourth day will be spent in local excursions.

Friday morning, July 9, leave for seashore and spend from Friday evening until Tuesday morning, when party will go to Boston, where trip will end.

The expense of this trip, covering everything from July 5 to 13, nine days, about \$40. Cost of coaching trip only, covering July 5 to the morning of July

9, including all expenses, about \$25, probably somewhat less.

For those who are traveling on certificate plan, arrangements will be made to leave the seashore on Monday, July 12, for Bretton Woods. From most New England and eastern New York points, the saving by using certificate plan will be so small that those taking the post-conference trip will probably decide to buy regular tickets.

Those intending to take this trip, or the coaching part of it, will send \$5, on account, before June 18 to the undersigned, the rest to be paid at Bretton Woods before July 4. Trip will be limited to 75 persons.

FREDERICK W. FAXON.

83 Francis street, Boston, Mass.,
Chairman A. L. A. travel committee.

A. L. A. travel arrangements of Western party

The rates and arrangements for the Western A. L. A. party are this year far more advantageous than usual, considering the distance. A 30-day rate is in effect from Chicago, St Louis and points west, which is much lower than the A. L. A. rate of a fare and three-fifths. The A. L. A. special train will leave Chicago, Wabash R. R., 11 p. m. Saturday, June 26; St Louis 8:30 p. m.; Detroit, Canadian Pacific R. R., 8 a. m. or 12:30 p. m. Sunday, June 27; arrive Toronto 4 p. m. or 9:15 p. m. Sunday, June 27; leave Toronto 10 p. m., arrive Montreal 7:30 a. m. Monday, June 28; leave Montreal 9 a. m. Monday, June 28; arrive Bretton Woods, Maine Central, 4:50 p. m. Those who wish to stop over for four hours in Detroit instead of Toronto can leave Detroit at 12:30 Sunday noon, in time to leave Toronto at 10 p. m. with the main party.

Pullmans will run through from Chicago and Toronto, and from St Louis if enough apply, to Fabyans on A. L. A. special train. On other trains a change of Pullman, but not of station, will be required at Montreal.

Excursion tickets from Chicago to Fabyans (Bretton Woods), good 30 days from date of sale, \$25.95. These tickets are good for stop-over returning at Detroit and all points in Canada. A 30-day ticket from Detroit will be sold for this occasion only for \$25.95 and must be bought at the Wabash station.

The rates from other points are as follows: Cincinnati, \$30.33 (A. L. A. certificate plan); Toronto, \$22.73 (A. L. A.); Buffalo, \$20.25 (A. L. A.); Cleveland, \$25.81 (A. L. A.); St Louis, \$33.70 (30-day). Members from Indiana and Michigan should plan to join the party at Detroit; those from Ohio can join either at Detroit or Toronto.

Pullman fares on special train: Chicago to Fabyans, \$5.50; Detroit to Fabyans, \$4.50; Toronto to Fabyans, \$3. A deposit of the Pullman fare should be made by June 20 with Charles H. Brown, the John Crerar library, Chicago, Ill. Members from Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Toronto, Montreal and Indiana and Ohio points should register for this trip with Mr Brown. Those from St. Louis and those who pass through St Louis should register with Paul Blackwelder, Public library, St Louis, Mo., accompanying application with deposit of \$7 for Pullman berth, St Louis to Fabyans.

CHARLES H. BROWN,
Western Travel Sec'y.

Considerations

Special topics which ought to be thought over by members before going to the meeting are as follows:

- Revision of constitution.
- Election of officers and council.
- Place of holding next meeting.
- International conference in 1910.

Library copyright league

The Library Copyright league will meet at Bretton Woods, N. H., on the evening of Thursday, July 1, hour and place to be announced later.

W. P. CUTTER, Sec'y.

League of Library Commissions**Program at Bretton Woods****A. L. A. general session**

Address on behalf of League of library commissions—Chalmers Hadley, secretary Indiana library commission.

Meetings of the league:

First session, Friday a. m., July 2

Work in the field; a series of personal experiences.

Experiences of a free lance in a western state—Lutie E. Stearns, Wisconsin.

With the prairie dwellers of Nebraska—Charlotte Templeton, Nebraska.

Down in Missouri—Elizabeth Wales, Missouri.

Planting the seed in a small town of the Middle states—Elizabeth D. Renninger, Long Island.

Jersey roads and Jersey paths, being stories of pine woods folk, charcoal burners and other people—Sarah B. Askew, New Jersey.

On the trail of the book wagon—Mary L. Titcomb, Maryland.

Second session, Saturday a. m., July 3

Address of the president.

Reports of the secretary and of the treasurer.

Report of the executive board.

Report of the committee on uniform traveling library blanks.

Report of the committee on commission work in state institutions.

Report of the committee on essentials of a model commission law.

"If I could command the speech of 20 nations I would preach politeness in them all. It is the Aladdin's lamp of success. I do not speak idly in praise of politeness, for out of the experience of 56 years in the banking business it has been borne in upon me almost daily that courtesy is one of the prime factors in the building up of every career. It is the hallmark of the gentleman and of the keen man of affairs."—George G. Williams.

Library Schools**Carnegie library of Pittsburgh training school for children's librarians**

The Spring term of the Training school opened April 12. Courses being given this term are: Coöperation with schools, Work in the home libraries and reading clubs, Reference work, Cataloging, Book selection for children, Planning and equipment of children's rooms, Administration of children's rooms.

One session of the seminar was resolved into a trustees' meeting, conducted by the students. Matters presented by the various committees concerned the opening of a new children's room, supplementary reading for the schools, and a duplicate fiction pay collection.

Alida Lattimore, Executive secretary of the Child Labor association of Allegheny county and of the Western Pennsylvania branch of the Consumer's league, gave two lectures in April on Welfare work, and Consumer's league.

Besides their regular lectures the students attended sessions of the Western Pennsylvania conference on the care of dependent children, held in Pittsburgh, April 22-24, and the Congress of the Playground association of America, which met May 10-14.

University of Illinois

The school has been very fortunate during the past two months in welcoming visiting lecturers, each of whom has given fresh impetus to the work.

C. B. Roden, acting librarian of Chicago public library, visited the school the last week in March, making two addresses on the occasion of his visit. The first was on the subject of The public library and the foreign element in the population. From Mr Roden's long experience in the order department of the Chicago public library, he was able to give many very practical suggestions on the subject of books in foreign languages. In the afternoon of

the same day Mr Roden gave an illustrated lecture on the History and development of the Chicago public library.

Most of the month of April was devoted to the course on library work with children given by Edna Lyman. Miss Lyman has been permanently added to the lecturing faculty of the Library school, and it is hoped will be with the school again next year for similar work. She gave in all 23 lectures, most of which were for the senior class, though several were given to members of the junior class. Her course included a résumé of work with children in most of the larger city libraries, a discussion of the equipment of children's rooms, discipline and rules, records, bulletins and pictures, classification and cataloging, the relation of the public library and schools, importance of attracting children to books, and the story hour. The latter part of Miss Lyman's stay was devoted to the discussion of principles of selection applied to children's books. In the last two meetings of the class Miss Lyman made a fitting close to an unusually attractive and interesting course by telling a number of stories in her own inimitable way. Much of the work was in the form of discussion, and attendance upon the lectures was therefore limited to the students and members of the faculty, with the exception of the last two days. Miss Lyman's work is too well known and her success has become too much a part of library school history to need further comment here.

Early in May, Miriam Carey, class of 1900, came as the representative of the Illinois library school alumni association to deliver the annual alumni lecture. Miss Carey chose for her subject Institutional libraries, a work which she has been the first to develop. The lecture proved to be original and inspiring and the school hopes to welcome Miss Carey in the future.

On May 7 the Junior class, accompanied by Miss Price and Miss Curtis, visited the Public library and the Carnegie library at the Soldiers' Home at Danville (Ill.) Among other evidences of hospitality on the part of the Library board and Miss Durham, the librarian, a delightful automobile ride proved very enjoyable. This trip finishes the round of visits to neighboring libraries, which has now become an established custom for the Junior class.

Norah McNeill, 1909, has been appointed to librarianship in Lead (S. D.) high school. Miss McNeill will begin her duties about August 15.

Myrtle Knepper, class of 1909, has taken a position as assistant in the Oregon agricultural college library at Corvallis, Ore., under the librarianship of Mrs Ida J. Kidder of the class of 1906.

Bertha M. Schneider, ex-1909, has been serving for the past few months as junior reviser in the Library school and is at present doing temporary work in the catalog department.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

New York state library

The annual visit was made April 6-19. Twenty-eight members of the school, under the general charge of Vice-Director Walter, comprised the party. The pleasure of the trip was very largely due to the cordiality and hospitality with which the party was everywhere greeted.

The complete list of libraries visited was as follows: New York public library: New central building, the Astor and Lenox libraries, and the Harlem library, Chatham Square and St Gabriel's Park branches; Columbia university library; Brooklyn public library: Montague branch and other branches specially assigned to various committees; Pratt institute library and library school; Newark public library; Trenton public library; Bryn Mawr college library; University of Pennsylvania library; Drexel institute library

and library school; Free library of Philadelphia; Chestnut street, H. Josephine Widener and Spring Garden branches; Library of Congress; District of Columbia public library; Office of the superintendent of documents; Library of the surgeon-general's office; Department of agriculture library.

Mrs H. L. Elmendorf addressed the school April 29 and 30. Her first lecture, "Things that matter," was a most inspiring presentation of library ideals. The second lecture formed a part of the course in administration and dealt in detail with the work of the Buffalo public library, with which Mrs Elmendorf has been so prominently connected.

Miss Tyler, secretary of the Iowa library commission, gave two lectures on commission work, May 3-4, dealing most particularly with the work of her own commission.

Arthur L. Bailey, '98, and Isabel Ely Lord, '97, the advisory board of the New York state library school association, visited the school May 6-8. The visit was primarily for the purpose of collecting material for the annual report of the board to the association. Both Miss Lord and Mr Bailey addressed the school, explaining the objects of the association and urging the present students to become members.

F. K. WALTER, Vice-director.

Wisconsin

The field practice of February and March proved so interesting, that the students returned with some reluctance to the further study of theories and methods. The opening weeks of the spring term, however, have been so full of good things that this feeling has quite vanished. On the opening days, seminars on observations in the field crystallized impressions and experiences.

The regular courses have been supplemented by the following lectures:

April 16, Mr Hadley—Some Indiana libraries.

April 26, Mr Brett—Cleveland libraries (illustrated).

April 27, Mr Brett—Problems of administration.

April 28, Mrs Fairchild—The librarian's reading.

April 28, Mr Bruncken—Library work in California.

April 29, Mrs Fairchild—Principles of book selection.

April 30, Mrs Fairchild—Presidents of the A. L. A. (illustrated).

April 30, Miss Olcott—Administration of children's rooms.

May 1, Miss Olcott—How to call attention to special classes of books.

The lectures of the last two days were attended by many out-of-town guests, including Miss Dousman of the Milwaukee public library, Miss Arnold, Miss Clark and Miss McDermott of the Dubuque (Iowa) public library, Miss Rowe, Children's librarian of Janesville (Wis.) public library. The many social functions made quite a gala week for staff and school. Dinners and drives were given in honor of Mr Brett, Mrs Fairchild and Miss Olcott. Miss Smith of the Madison public library gave an informal reception to school and guests. The usual May day celebration was more merry than usual, in spite of the snowstorm without. The picture bulletins, presented as a class exercise each year on May 1, included the following subjects: African travel, American pottery, Animal stories, Books for girls, Civic improvement, Earthquakes and volcanoes, Egypt, Going to college, Cooper, Land of the rising sun, Northern Wisconsin Indians, Old English plays, Our pioneers, Some novels worth while, Stories of Venice, Stories of King Arthur, and Wisconsin—History. These bulletins are loaned throughout the state to libraries and clubs. After the bulletin seminary, and Miss Olcott's lecture, coffee was served in the schoolroom.

The date for the opening of the Wisconsin library school in the fall is set for September 27, at which time reg-

istration is begun. Instruction begins on September 29. This date is identical for the short course and the long term.

Short course

The short course will be conducted, as last year, in the fall instead of the summer months. The change of time makes possible an eight weeks' course.

The schedule is planned to include the most essential courses of library methods: cataloging, classification, reference work, book selection, etc.

Library school notes

Helen Harwood, 1908, has resigned the librarianship of the Tipton (Iowa) public library, to accept a similar position in the Public library at Minot, N. D.

Ada J. McCarthy, 1907, librarian of the Rhinelander (Wis.) public library, has been granted leave of absence to spend the summer in Europe. She joins Miss Hazeltine's party. During her absence, Lillian Jones, 1909, will serve as acting librarian.

The following members of the class of 1909 have been assigned to positions up to the present time, May 1:

Harriet Bixby, assistant, cataloging and reference department, Cincinnati public library.

Florence C. Farnham, organizer, Normal school library, Ellensburg, Wash.

Polly Fenton, assistant, cataloging and reference department, Cincinnati public library.

Mrs Katherine A. Hahn, assistant librarian, Stout institute, Menomonie, Wis.

Lillian E. Jones, assistant, Public library, Racine, Wis. Appointment to take effect after her work as acting librarian, Rhinelander, is completed.

Julia A. Robinson, acting secretary, North Dakota library commission.

Mary E. Watkins, librarian, Public library, Wausau, Wis.

Ora Williams, assistant, cataloging and reference department, Cincinnati public library.

Washington

A course in library economics will be presented at the summer school of the University of Washington, Seattle, June 21-July 30. Instruction given will be fitted to the needs of persons engaged in library work, to teachers, and to such other persons as may care to understand and more fully appreciate the value of a library. Book selection, cataloging, library organization, reference work and library extension will be presented. The school will be under the direction of Librarian W. E. Henry of the University of Washington, assisted by C. W. Smith and Miss Meissner of the university library staff.

Interesting Things in Print

The Worcester free public library bulletin for May contains a selected list on gardens and gardening.

The Buffalo public library has issued pocket-size lists on handicrafts, music and its appreciation, and the building trades.

The *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for April contains an appreciation of the Hon. George Nelson Black, for many years trustee of the Illinois state historical society library.

The Case library of Cleveland issues in pocket size reading lists on timely topics. The latest books relating to outdoor life are listed in the May issue. Bits of bait in the shape of quotations from famous outdoor enthusiasts are scattered throughout the list.

Young Women's Journal for April, published at Salt Lake City, is largely devoted to descriptions of efforts and work of and for the blind under the title "For those who sit in darkness." An interesting bit is the description of the work that is carried on by the Packard library of Salt Lake City, where, in addition to readings three days a week, there is given instruction in typewriting and in the style of reading used by blind people.

Library Meetings

California—Fifty-seven libraries were represented at the meeting of the California library association in Oakland April 15-16. State Librarian Gillis presided. Miss Marvin, secretary of the Oregon library commission, gave an extremely interesting résumé of the work done by the commission in that state, the strong point of which is to establish an effective traveling library system. The state of Oregon is but sparsely populated at present, so that units for the support of public libraries are too small to build up very large or strong collections. Nevertheless, the people of the state are interested in all lines of progress. The commission puts its strongest efforts therefore in keeping in touch with the vital interests of the people of the state, and sends out collections of books for public school needs, on political questions; for needs of the farmers, debating societies, road improvement and legislative questions.

Miss Marvin described Oregon as a political experiment station, where the welfare of the state depended directly upon the intelligence of the voters. Young men find themselves called upon to vote upon such questions as Ownership of railroads, Woman suffrage, State insurance, etc., and they demand information on such subjects. The problem was to get books to each family in a rural community where there are few railroads and outside of Portland no free libraries.

The work is not very old, but has shown tremendous increase with such satisfactory results that the legislature of the state has answered every request for increase of appropriations.

Assistant state librarian Ferguson of the California library reviewed recent California library legislation. The state library has been placed at the head of the whole library organization, in close touch with school, municipal and county libraries, and has been so organized as to be able readily to loan

books, give information and assistance wherever most required. The valuable feature is the system of county libraries and establishment of branches and deposit stations where none existed before.

Susan T. Smith, reference librarian in the State library, read the report of the Committee on statistics of library associations. By a comparison of the data concerning 22 associations in the United States and Canada it was found that the California association was in the front rank in regard to membership, number of meetings and results accomplished. Miss Smith ended with a recommendation for membership fees graded according to the salaries of the library workers in order that the membership list might be made to include every person in the state interested in library welfare.

John Graham Brooks of Boston was the principal speaker of the afternoon session. The keynote of his address was an appeal to librarians to circulate literature dealing with positive, constructive and hopeful views of life. He said the next great work is the direction of education so that it shall give a new view of the circumstances among which we are situated.

In the morning the delegates, as guests of the Berkley chamber of commerce, made a tour of the city visiting the Berkley public library and University of California. Luncheon was served at noon on the college campus. President Wheeler of the university acted as toastmaster. Addresses were made by a number of prominent speakers and by the visitors.

The general session on Friday afternoon opened with the president's report, in which he reviewed the work of the association for the past year. He commended the good work done by the district officers, the various committees and the secretary-treasurer. The report of the secretary-treasurer showed re-

ceipts for the year of \$920.20 and disbursements of \$636.53.

Mary F. Isom, librarian of the Portland library association, followed with an account of the work in Multnomah County, Oregon. Harriet G. Eddy, principal of the Elk Grove high school and custodian of the first station of the Sacramento County library, spoke enthusiastically of the value of the county library system to the smaller communities. Much interest was shown in all these papers, and it seemed to be the general feeling that the system opened up great possibilities to the library work of the state.

Miss Marvin urged all library workers in California to attend the library meeting at Seattle June 8-10, and Mr Gillis read a letter from Franklin F. Hooper of Tacoma inviting the association to the meeting. Miss Isom invited all who should go to Seattle to stop at Portland en route, and Mr Gillis advised a stop at Salem also to see the splendid work of the Oregon library commission.

The third session was opened by C. S. Greene, who read a letter to the council of the A. L. A. urging that the meeting of the A. L. A. for 1910 be held in California. The letter was unanimously approved by the California library association. The president then introduced the Rev. W. A. Brewer, president of the California Book-plate society, who read a most interesting paper on Book-plates. Following the paper 28 lantern slides, representing various types of plates, were thrown upon a screen and were briefly commented upon by Mr Brewer.

Mr Gillis and Mr Rowell spoke of the failure of the legislature to appropriate funds for the maintenance of a library school and of the hope to have one established in the University of California some time in the future. Mr Ferguson for the Committee on Distribution of state documents stated that during the thirty-eighth session of the

legislature a law was enacted which places the distribution of state documents in the hands of the State librarian mainly and of the Secretary of State.

In the absence of Mrs Charles F. Schwan, chairman of the Committee on resolutions, the president appointed Melvin G. Dodge chairman pro tem.

Resolutions were adopted expressing the appreciation of the association of the interesting program presented and of the hospitality of the hosts of the several occasions and pledging anew devotion to the work.

Mr Brewer's paper on book-plates was illustrated by a most interesting exhibit of choice book-plates prepared by Sheldon Cheney, secretary of the California book-plate society. In addition to this there was an exhibit of bindings, showing some work of California amateur binders, some styles of commercial binding especially adapted to library uses, and a few bindings by noted binders, prepared by M. J. Ferguson; an exhibit of a library of 50 books with blanks and forms used in county extension work from the Sacramento public library, and an exhibit of books for the blind, showing the different types in use, from the State library. Saturday was the annual "wildflower day" at the Oakland free library.

The social features of the meeting were usually enjoyable. The trustees and staff of the Oakland public library gave an informal reception in the library. Miss Humphreys, the vice-president, presided most charmingly over the program, which included songs, recitations, and original poems, all contributed by members of the association.

Friday evening was left free on the program, but many of the members visited the libraries of San Leandro and Alameda, being the guests on the way thither of Carl Wernecke of the Library bureau.

On Saturday afternoon the ladies of

the Ebell club invited the association to tea at their beautiful club house. In addition to the tea the members had the pleasure of listening to a delightful musical program.

Over 230 persons were in attendance at the meeting, representing 51 of the 114 public libraries and 17 other libraries of the state.

At the Trustees' section Prof. L. J. Richardson of Berkeley spoke on book buying. Mr Gillis then presented the subject of "Cold cash." He advised trustees to do three things: First, get a good manager; second, support the management; third, conduct a campaign on every available line, educational and otherwise, so that the management will not lack for funds. Mr Hyde spoke on the question of pay of librarians in small libraries, saying that it should be equal to that of teachers.

The following officers of the trustees' section were elected for the next year: President, W. F. Hyde; vice-president, Prof. L. J. Richardson; secretary, Mrs I. N. Chapman.

The annual dinner was held in the rooms of the Home club, 130 guests being present. After-dinner speeches were made by the Rev. Charles R. Brown, ex-Governor George C. Pardee, Helen E. Haines and Charles S. Greene. Following the dinner Howells's farce, "Evening dress," was given and formed a most enjoyable conclusion to an unusually successful and profitable meeting.

ALICE J. HAINES, Sec'y-Treas.

Chicago—The last meeting of the Chicago library club for the year 1908-1909 was held by invitation at the Evanston public library Thursday evening, May 13. The meeting was preceded by a supper served in the spacious boys' room. Nearly 100 members and their friends were present and thoroughly enjoyed the pleasant occasion. The room was decorated with flowers

and plants and the young ladies of the library served coffee and cream.

In the absence of President Andrews and the two vice-presidents, the meeting was called to order by Miss Ahern, chairman of the program committee. The reports for the year showed a satisfactory growth in both work and resources.

The resignation of Miss Stern was presented and accepted with regret. Mention was made, by various members, of the service Miss Stern had rendered the club in many ways, especially in connection with the home libraries. She is at present connected with the Library of Congress.

Much enthusiasm was displayed when it was announced that A. L. A. headquarters in Chicago again looked near.

The following officers were elected: President, Carrie L. Elliott, reference librarian Chicago public library; vice-presidents, Thos. W. Allinson, head of The Henry Booth settlement, and Mabel Thain, librarian, Oak Park public library; secretary, E. D. Tweedell, assistant reference librarian, The John Crerar library; treasurer, Mary L. Watson of the Newberry library.

Miss Lindsay, librarian of the Evanston public library, welcomed the guests of the evening, and gave them the freedom of the library after a few words of description and explanation of its arrangement. The building is centrally located, conveniently arranged, well furnished, and contains one of the strong libraries in Illinois.

District of Columbia—The regular monthly meeting of the District of Columbia library association was held in the children's room of the Public library on Wednesday, April 14, with the president, W. Dawson Johnston, in the chair. About 110 members and guests were present.

The speaker of the evening was Prof. William A. Wilbur, dean at George Washington university. He chose as his subject "The lyric influences in the

poets' corner of the Library of Congress." Dean Wilbur spoke of the quality of lyric poetry, its subjective character and the ethereal quality of its music. "The lyric is the wander-song in the realm of fancy. The soul is stirred by the voices of the fields and the sky and the sea and the forces that range to and fro between them, and under the winds of circumstance it awakens into song and projects itself in lyric influences."

Paintings in Library of Congress

The speaker then passed on to the more immediate subject, the eight paintings in the south corridor of the Library of Congress—all illustrative of the theme, lyric poetry. This series of pictures by the artist, H. O. Walker, unite artistic conception and treatment with profound appreciation of literature and with sound literary criticism. In the larger tympanum at the east end of the corridor is the central painting of the group illustrating the genius of lyric poetry and its elemental types. The Genius of Lyric Poetry, with her rose garment and radiant face, is the center of the picture. At her right hand are Passion and Beauty and Mirth, and at her left Pathos, Truth and Devotion. Inspired by them all the Spirit of Song is expressive of the moods of all her companions.

The earliest of the lyric themes is the Death of Adonis, enshrining the name of Shakespeare. The painting is in gray light. The pallor of nature seems to have cast an ashen hue over nature, as it has on the dead face of Adonis. It is a forest picture. The haze of early morning has scarcely felt the sun. The mist is on the grass and the beaches and the gray stones. The white form is cold, and beneath the wound in the side upon the green grass is a single spot of blood. Its theme—love's sorrow in mortality—is a note of sadness in all poetry.

The second lyric theme is from the Comus of Milton. Comus seems a creature of the woods. With his sim-

ple dress, his shepherd cap, his lynx skin about him, his kneeling posture, his wariness, his listening attitude, with left hand raised—he pays unconscious tribute to purity and song.

The lyric theme that bears the name of Wordsworth is one of spiritual beauty. The painting is inspired by the poet's memory of his youth. The evening, the stars, the bells, the trees, the glimmering lake, the boy with the wistful, fearless face, his raised hands just as he has blown his mimic hootings to the owls, the evening haze and dim-reflected stars within the lake, the solemn imagery, the gentle shock of surprise—all those are in the picture. The theme is not Winander, or the Evening, or Nature, but the Boy.

The theme of Endymion enshrines the memory of Keats to express the lyric mood of wistfulness. Here in the picture are earth and sky and heavenly influence, and here is man with dominion over earth and with aspiration for heaven. And there is an atmosphere—silent, hushed, wistful, longing. The painting is of the boy Endymion sleeping in an open place on the slopes of Mount Latmos. His cloak of leopard skin is around him, his shepherd's crook is at his side. The new moon shines in the clear evening sky, and the boy dreams. This is a picture of lyric romanticism, it is a vision in a dream; the seer's vision and the poet's dream merging the strange beauty of a time that is gone and the wistful longing for what has never been.

The painting "Ganymede" is a lyric vision of the spiritual vision that breathes in Tennyson's poetry. The theme of the picture is drawn from "The palace of art." The boy, Ganymede, with rose-pink mantle, his arms half extended, and sweet, upturned face in eager aspiration, is borne aloft on the eagle's mighty wings. Ganymede was, according to the old story, the most beautiful of mortals. The eagle was the messenger of Jove. Here in symbol are perfection of form and pos-

session of power, here are exquisite art and soaring genius.

A picture wrought in browns and yellows, a kind of chaos of form and place before the world was made—this is Uriel enshrining the name of Emerson. The face of Uriel is the picture. Out of vastness set in isolation is a pinnacle of living rock. Clouds are round about it. There alone is Uriel. The lyric Uriel is like the lyric spirit of Milton's sonnets—it is battle music.

On the west wall is an allegorical painting. In the right of the picture are two figures to Memory, in the left two to Joy. The background of Memory is art—the beauty of a garden with chiseled seat of stone; the background of Joy is nature—the sweetness of fields and woods.

After the conclusion of the paper, President Johnston presented his resignation, expressing his deep regret at the necessity of severing a relation which had been so pleasant to him. The resignation was due to the fact that Mr Johnston expects shortly to leave Washington to enter upon his duties as assistant librarian of the Brooklyn public library.

The students of the New York state library school, on their biennial visit to Washington libraries, were present at the meeting. At its close, the members of the association had the pleasure of meeting them and the vice-director of the school, F. K. Walter. Light refreshments were served and a very delightful hour spent.

CARL P. P. VITZ, Sec'y.

Ohio—The 35 women connected with the four libraries of Columbus have formed an organization known as the Columbus library club. Mrs C. B. Galbreath was elected president; Miss Roberts, vice-president; Miss Kellicott, secretary, and Miss Schaub, treasurer.

The first social meeting of the club was held Thursday evening, April 1, at the home of Miss Boardman, on Oak street. The club was entertained with

an April Fool party, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Pennsylvania—The last meeting of the season was held on Monday evening, May 10, 1909, at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia. Mr Thomson presided and presented the apologies of the president, Mr Bailey, for his unavoidable absence. Upon motion, the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was omitted. The election of nine new members was announced. The following were elected officers for 1909-1910: President, Rev. L. M. Robinson, S. T. D. librarian, Divinity school of the P. E. church at Philadelphia, 5000 Woodland avenue; secretary, Jean E. Graffen, Free library of Philadelphia; treasurer, Bertha Seidl Wetzell, Library Company of Philadelphia. The outgoing secretary was tendered a vote of thanks for services rendered during the past six years.

Mr Thomson then resigned the chair to Dr Robinson, the newly elected president, who thanked the club for the honor accorded him and asked the co-operation of the members in maintaining the high position to which the club had risen during the 17 years of its existence.

Dr Robinson presented the speaker of the evening, Helen Rex Keller, assistant librarian of the Drexel institute, who read an entertainingly witty and original paper on "The old-fashioned virtues vs. The ideal librarian." Miss Keller analyzed the requirements laid down for the average applicant for a librarian's position, and showed the impossibility of meeting these requirements under actual conditions.

At the close of Miss Keller's paper, in response to a call from the chair, Mr Thomson opened a discussion on the subject. He commended the speaker for having pointed out a common error of librarians in trying to secure too great uniformity in requirements and methods of work. Since the needs of communi-

ties differ, there should be more individuality of action on these matters.

The chairman thanked Miss Keller in the name of the club for her able and witty presentation of the subject. He then extended a most courteous invitation to those members of the club who contemplated attending the coming A. L. A. conference at Bretton Woods to spend several days, as his personal guests, at Bailey Island, Maine, before returning home.

EDITH BRINKMANN, Sec'y.

Pennsylvania—A special meeting of the Monongahela Valley library association was held at the Carnegie library of Braddock on Thursday, May 13. The following libraries were represented: Allegheny, Beaver Falls, Braddock, Connellsville, Duquesne, Elizabeth, Homestead, Ingram, McKeesport, Sharon and Pittsburgh.

The meeting was held in the handsomely decorated Skibo room on the third floor. Miss Smith, children's librarian of the Homestead library, was presiding officer. The meeting opened with a talk by W. F. Stevens, librarian of the Carnegie library of Homestead, relating what he considered successful means of attracting men to the library. Miss Carver, librarian of the Buel club of Sharon, followed telling means used to advertise the library with her constituency. Mrs M. E. Daigh, librarian of the Connellsville library, gave an interesting talk on "How to give the library its proper place in the community." R. P. Bliss, of the State library commission of Pennsylvania, explained the work of the commission, expressing its purpose to be helpful wherever it was possible.

At noon a very nice dinner was served in the library building to about 40 guests. At its close Mr Addenbrook, trustee of the Braddock library, talked on "What the trustee expects of the librarian." It was followed by Charles E. Wright, librarian at Du-

quesne, on "What the librarian expects of the trustee." The discussion was a veritable illustration of the adage "There is many a truth that is told in jest."

An interesting session in the form of a round table, on the relations of schools and libraries, occupied the latter half of the afternoon. Librarian Lane of the Braddock library conducted the round table. It was held in the music hall of the library building and about 20 teachers were present, many of whom participated in the discussion. Miss McMeans, a teacher in the Homestead schools, told "How the library can help the school." Miss Clifton, librarian of Beaver Falls library, spoke of the work with pupils in the reference department. Miss Allen, a teacher in the Braddock schools, sounded a note of warning on the danger of pupils reading too much. Most cordial good feeling was manifested and the meeting was voted a success.

Women Librarians

The Quinquennial Congress and International Council of Women will be held in Toronto, Canada, June 17-30. "Women in the professions" will be discussed by various delegates. Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, has been asked to present the subject, "Women librarians." The women librarians who would like to have any point relative to the subject emphasized are invited to correspond with the speaker.

The Tandy-Thomas Company of New York has issued a leaf containing what is termed "The librarian's creed," by Francis D. Tandy, who dubs himself "Once a librarian, but fallen from grace." The reverse side is used to call attention to the efforts of the Tandy-Thomas Company to meet the desires of librarians in regard to books. "The Creed" expressed facetiously, contains good library doctrine and may be had on application to the publishers.

Atlantic City Meeting

The first joint Atlantic City meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association was held on Friday evening, March 19, with Charles A. George, president of the New Jersey library association, in the chair.

The mayor of Atlantic City made an address of welcome, and in return a vote of the thanks of the associations was extended to the trustees of the Atlantic City free public library for their invitation to make use of their building.

John C. Dana, of Newark, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in our opinion the efficiency of the public libraries of New Jersey will be impaired rather than increased by making them subject to the civil service law of New Jersey.

Prof. Christian Gauss of modern languages department at Princeton university read a very interesting paper on

Popular education in literature

Professor Gauss said that the question of popular education in literature is indeed a serious one, serious for the librarians, the collectors, custodians and dispensers of literature, the college professors, whose first and most pressing duty it is to inculcate in the minds of the students intrusted to them a taste for what is highest and what is best.

Now the first question which confronts us is, after all, the question, What is literature? When we speak of literature, we are talking of the best literature. It is much more important that the man out in the world, the man whom we are trying to educate in literature, should select good books, than the student or teacher; for to us who read many books, who are professional readers, each book means less. Our allegiance is divided, and yet there is no greater dynamic force in the world today than that of the written word. To a person who reads comparatively few books, to the man again

whom we are trying to educate, each book is a power. Every single work means much, not only as regards that process which we technically call his education, but also as regards his development of character, both as an individual and as a citizen.

In speaking of the effect of reading, Professor Gauss thinks that we should work together. There are two ways in which the pernicious effect of irresponsible reading may be corrected. The first is, merely through the encouragement of the reading habit in general, by getting people to read many books, leaving the effect of the one to counteract the effect of the other. The results in this case are not always satisfactory, and it is to the other method that he wishes to call our attention particularly—namely, the creating of interest in a taste for the highest and the best.

The duty of the teacher is to evoke a curiosity of the people for literature, and he may have succeeded when he makes his author the friend of the student, and when he has established a lasting relationship between them.

In speaking of the results of lectures given in our cities from time to time, Professor Gauss claims that the libraries must take up the subjects of the lecturers where the lecturers leave off. When lectures are given in our cities, the librarians should see to it that such books as he recommends are placed within easy access of the people, and in sufficient quantities. You must also be ready and willing to give your readers such information and guidance when he starts in to read as may be necessary. The most serious difficulty in the attempt now being made to educate the people in literature is the lack of sufficient facilities and sympathetic co-operation between teachers and librarians. A lecture or course of lectures that is not backed up by reading is for the audience merely a debauch of words. The only place where you have them fast is between covers on the printed page. Whether they shall do

good or not is very largely a question of responsibility, which is divided between the teacher and the librarian—for the teacher to provide the introduction, and for the librarian to make out of the introduction a lasting acquaintance.

Edward L. Katzenbach, of Trenton, speaking on the topic "What the municipality expects in return for the money appropriated for library purposes," says that it is difficult to see how the municipality could expect to receive a great deal in turn for the meager appropriations which are made for library purposes. Appropriations are, as a rule, very small if considered in relation to the work which the libraries are expected to perform. What the municipality under our system usually expects in return for its appropriation is, that the parties in power may be satisfied and that some little may be accomplished. The municipality as a whole is usually satisfied with all things of a municipal nature, provided the tax rate is not too high and public works of a respectable temporary character are extant and capable of being shown to visitors.

The second session was held on Saturday morning, March 20, under the direction of the Pennsylvania library club, with the president, Arthur Low Bailey, in the chair.

William Parker Cutter, librarian of the Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., explained the provisions of the new copyright bill and of those sections of the Payne tariff bill which affect the importation of books by libraries. (See P. L., 14:133-134.)

The chairman introduced Dr Cornelius Weygandt, professor of English literature at the University of Pennsylvania, who gave a delightful talk upon the "Celtic revival," speaking from a personal knowledge of and friendship with the writers standing in the foremost ranks of this movement.

Several years have elapsed since the visit of William Butler Yeats brought to the attention of Americans the ex-

tent of the Celtic revival in English literature. This movement has quickened interest, not in Irish literature only, but also in that of Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, and even in that of Breton, France. It has opened an entirely new field of folklore and mythology, absolutely fresh and different from the familiar legends of the literatures of southern Europe. In Scotland the real Celtic writers are Neil Munro and Fiona McLeod. The work of William Sharp under the latter pseudonym is not to be regarded as an expression of dual personality, but rather as a clever literary hoax. English literature has been influenced but little by the Welsh, who are really bilingual, and have devoted their greatest literary efforts to works written in their own tongue. The most typical of Manx writers is not Hall Caine, but T. E. Brown, one of the most interesting poets of the last 50 years.

The Celtic revival in its influence upon English literature centers chiefly about the Irish novelists, dramatists and poets of the last 20 years. The works of the older novelists, Lever, Lover and Carleton, are usually to be found in free libraries, which will probably have also the more recent novels written by Jane Barlow, Emily Lawless and Katharine Tynan Hinkson. The latter is a much better poet than novelist. Rosa Mulholland, Shan Bullock and William Buckley, the last named writing with almost painful fidelity to the Irish life of today, are promising young novelists of the Celtic movement.

The Irish renaissance has produced a new drama also, influenced by the works of Ibsen and of Maeterlinck. "Land," by Padraic Colm, grips the reader as the "Pillars of Society" grips him. The plays of William Butler Yeats and of Lady Gregory have done for Gaelic Celtic legends what Lady Guest, in her translation of the "Mabinogion," has done for Cymric Celtic literature.

Three poets of high literary merit

developed by the Celtic revival are George W. Russell, better known as "A. E.," Lionel Johnson, who died in 1902, and William Butler Yeats. Russell is a man of many interests, business man, artist, author and father confessor for those who have wandered from conventional religious folds. The late Lionel Johnson, who, in his "Art of Thomas Hardy," has produced the greatest piece of modern literary criticism, has published two books of eloquent and dignified verse, the second of which, "Ireland and other poems," is out of print and consequently difficult to find in any library. William Butler Yeats is a poet ranking in importance with our own Poe, and is to be placed among the writers who have done a small thing supremely well. Readers of Stevenson's Letters will recall his appreciation of the work of this young Irish author.

The Celtic revival, foreshadowed by Matthew Arnold and by Renan, was begun by the publication of Yeats's *Wanderings of Oisín* in 1888. A noteworthy feature of its development is the founding of the Gaelic league by Dr Douglas Hyde, the object of which is to restore the original Irish language as a medium for national literature.

Ada F. Liveright, librarian of the Pedagogical library, Philadelphia, read a paper entitled "How may the use of books and library catalogs be made a subject of study in normal schools?" The excellent work done along these lines in western normal schools was contrasted with the efforts just begun in the East.

Montrose J. Moses read an admirable paper on The experimental temptation; or, The attractive power of books versus the librarian's method.

The third session was held on Saturday evening, March 20, 1909, with Edwin H. Anderson, assistant director of the New York public library, in the chair.

Dr Ernest C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton university, read a delightful

paper on "Book matters at home and abroad."

Mary W. Plummer, director of the Pratt institute library school, read a charming sketch dealing with the "Seven joys of reading."

The last paper of the evening was a defense of the modern system of elementary education by Dr George Twitmyer, superintendent of public schools of Wilmington, Del., under the title, "School methods and library work."

Arthur Low Bailey offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association, in joint annual meeting, desire to express their most sincere appreciation of the action of the Committee on patents of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States in assuring by the new copyright law an adequate protection of the interests of American libraries.

Resolved, That these associations express their sincere thanks to the Honorable Read Smoot, of Utah, and the Honorable Frank D. Currier, of New Hampshire, for their careful consideration of the arguments presented by the representatives of the library interests during the consideration of the copyright bill.

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to Senator Smoot and to Representative Currier.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Special meetings

In the special meeting of the New Jersey library association March 18 Sophia Hulsizer, of the New York public library, spoke on the topic, "How to make a library more useful to a town," by relating her experience in reorganizing a library in a small mining town in Pennsylvania.

After the library was reorganized steps were taken to assist the people in the use of the library and the purchase of books in foreign languages for the use of the foreign population. The librarian learned a few simple phrases in foreign languages, which was the means of breaking down the prejudices of this class of people and resulted in their using the library. Instruction was

given to teachers and their classes in the use of the catalog and how to get information from books. Miss Hulsizer is of the opinion that the usefulness of the library depends largely upon the librarian's knowledge of books; her ability to impart knowledge; and a knowledge of the needs of her people, rather than the making of elaborate lists and the use of too much red tape.

Following Miss Hulsizer more than two dozen other librarians in a brisk and interesting discussion brought out some particular feature by which the usefulness of the several libraries is being increased.

The second session was held on Friday morning, with John C. Dana, of Newark, in the chair.

Bulletins

Miss Cowing, of the Pratt institute free library, speaking on the affirmative side of the topic, "The making of picture bulletins for use in libraries and schools," stated that in the Pratt institute library they were of the opinion that it was of distinct value to have picture bulletins on the walls for the children to see, supplemented by poetry, brief descriptive matter and good reading lists.

The first point in bulletin-making is to select a suitable subject, one which is likely to be of permanent interest and which lends itself to representation by pictures. Bulletins on the different holidays are the most useful because there is always a demand through the schools for composition material and poems for these occasions. Besides the holidays, certain authors are good subjects for bulletins, the general scheme being to have a good portrait of the author, a brief account of his life and a list of his best-known works. The all-important point in bulletin-making is to make your bulletin look attractive and readable. Another point in this connection and of almost equal importance is to feel sure that what you have provided for people to read is worth reading, if they make the effort; for

this reason it seems that quotations or selections from real literature, whenever it is possible, explain the idea you wish to convey. It has been observed that children will read a great deal of poetry in this way, which in all probability they would not read otherwise, and in bulletin work, as in all other phases of library work, we want always to keep in mind that our aim is to make more widely known the books that are worth while.

Miss Cowing advocates the exchange of picture bulletins, and can see no reason why we should not have co-operative picture bulletins as well as co-operative book lists.

Miss Mulligan, of the Perth Amboy library, speaking on the negative side of the topic, says that when she left the library school she was filled with enthusiasm for picture bulletins, but after a long series of experiments has come to the conclusion that their chief benefits are for those who make them, and not for those who see them.

Although efforts in this direction have met with more or less success, the interest never seemed equal to the time, labor and money spent in the preparation of bulletins. Much has been said that picture bulletins are useful or practical only in so far as they create a demand for certain books on holidays and other events equally well known. It is hardly necessary to create a demand, it usually exists in larger proportions than we are able to cope with. The difficulty is to find enough books to satisfy the demand.

Pictures have a strong attraction for children, especially colored ones. It has been noted that children will go through book after book searching out the illustrations, the reading matter being of little or no consequence to them.

The circulation of books on local history in Perth Amboy was increased by the making of pictures on local landmarks, buildings and places.

Miss Morris, of the Summit public library, speaking on the affirmative side

of "The advantages and disadvantages of library clubs," told of the organization of a girl's reading club in Summit. It was inspired by the need that existed among a half dozen working girls with whom the librarian came in contact. The club met in the library one evening each week, did fancy work, while the librarian read to them, choosing books that would be of interest to them. An executive committee for the club was formed of ladies in the town interested in social betterment of the town. The club was then called the Literary club. Besides a reading club there is a gymnasium class, sewing class, and on Thursday afternoons a class in domestic science.

The club has grown to such proportions that on January 1 this year it left the protecting wing of the library and called itself the Woman's Institute of Summit, hired a large building and is supported by annual associate membership dues of \$2 for active membership and \$1 for associate membership.

As to whether this club has been an advantage to the library, it is hard to say. All the girls in the institute become library members sooner or later, if they are not members when they join the institute.

Another club that proved of advantage to the library is the Anti-Goop league. The initiation consists of a pledge to handle all books with care and clean hands. Meetings are held twice each month, and are conducted according to parliamentary rule. The advantage of this league to the library is to be measured by the improved condition of the books, and the effect of the league upon the habits of the children of the library.

Miss Morris contends that there is a certain limit to which you can go in allowing children self-government, a certain limit to which you must take the lead, just so much serious work, and so much play that they will endure, and it is a wise person who sees those limits before she comes to them.

Miss Bockius, of the Camden free public library, referring to an experience with boys' clubs in Camden, is not inclined to favor them. The Boys' Reading fraternity of Camden was organized to encourage the reading of non-fiction. The club had the usual number of officers, held meetings once each month, were disorderly and generally a nuisance and a disadvantage to the library. The boys disregarded their pledges to read non-fiction and read whatever they pleased. Miss Bockius is of the opinion that club work is not the work of the library, and that the time devoted thereto is a decided loss to the library.

Miss Harvey, of Asbury Park free public library, speaking on the affirmative side of the topic, "The advantages of story telling in libraries," said that the children enjoyed story telling and that it is a means of bringing them in contact with good books. The story-hour enabled the librarian to lead the children to the habit of coming to the library and was an incentive to reading good literature. Miss Harvey contends that the time devoted to story telling is well spent, brings good results, and should be encouraged.

Miss Campbell, of the Passaic public library, does not agree with Miss Harvey in the advantage of story telling in the library. She holds that it is the duty of the teacher and not the librarian to tell stories to the children; that it is not within the province of the library to take up such work; that the time wasted in the preparation of the stories might be devoted to other duties of greater importance in the library.

A social session was held on Friday afternoon, which was much enjoyed by the company present.

The presence of many librarians from other states than Pennsylvania and New Jersey gave flavor of a national meeting. The increased number of young librarians was a noticeable feature, as well as the absence of some of the older ones formerly seen at the meetings.

Library Legislation

At this writing the bill for a Library commission in the Illinois legislature is in the committee on libraries in the House of representatives. It has passed the Senate with a few minor amendments.

The bill providing for a new charter for Chicago contains a clause exempting the office of chief librarian from the governance of the civil service system. This bill has not passed at this time.

The Seattle public library has been removed from the jurisdiction of the Municipal civil service commission by the enactment of a law by the last legislature. A similar law to apply to the libraries of New Jersey failed to pass in that state.

The bill for the licensing of librarians, which was proposed by the Ohio library association and introduced at its request into the Ohio legislature, failed to pass. Already the arrangements are being made to have the subject taken up next year at the regular session of the legislature.

The legislature of Indiana passed a law at the session just closed allowing municipal libraries to extend their privileges to all the people of the several townships, on condition that said townships shall contribute to the library support. The law provides that upon the petition of 50 freeholders of the township owning real estate, not already taxed for library purposes, the board shall levy a special library tax of not less than five or more than 10 cents on each \$100.

A bill was passed by the Utah legislature, just adjourned, forming a Library-gymnasium commission for that state. The commission is formed of seven members, and its purpose will be the advancement of work along lines of physical and mental education. The president is Prof. W. M. Stewart of the State university; J. C. Thomas of

the Agricultural college, vice-president; Howard Briggs, State university, secretary.

Library commission work in North Dakota is entering upon a season of prosperity. The legislature increased its appropriation from \$1500 to \$7800 annually. The law was amended to give a commission of five members instead of three, as formerly, and longer tenure of office. Mrs Minnie Clarke Budlong, whose term as commissioner expired April 1, was made secretary and director in charge of the work. Sveinbjorn Johnson, the legislative reference librarian, has been given six weeks' leave of absence to be spent in Madison during the legislature. Better quarters have been provided for the commission work. New traveling libraries are being purchased, and strong efforts will be made to foster and assist the library spirit, which is so rapidly springing up all over the state.

Flexible Glue

The annual report of the Cincinnati public library has the following about flexible glue:

Since the introduction of flexible glue, by means of which, with suitable manipulation, it is possible to replace the covers on books, which otherwise would have to go to the binder, the time of one member of the repair department was found sufficient to make these repairs throughout the whole library system. She goes from the main library around through the branches gluing on covers. The books are quickly back on the shelves in a strong and flexible condition, as though they had been rebound. This use of flexible glue is resulting in a saving on the binding bills of 30 or 40 per cent. It brings the cost of rebinding novels down to a cent or two a volume, practically to nothing when the saving in time and labor in the handling and recording of books sent to the bindery is considered.

The Public Library of Chicago

The public library situation in Chicago was comprehensively presented in a recent article in the *Chicago Daily News*, by Prof. Graham Taylor, who has been one of the most active and efficient members ever connected with the Chicago public library board. The article is too long to reprint in its entirety. The following are the essential facts it presents:

In the desire of the members of the board of directors of the Chicago public library to prevent unwarranted discussion from which misunderstanding of the situation might arise, they took action in executive session. Such action is enjoined by the by-laws of the library, which provide "that employment, compensation and discharge of all employes of the library board shall be considered only in executive session."

The decision to ask for the librarian's resignation had been reached by all and it was the intention of the board that the resignation should be presented, perhaps to take effect at some later date entirely convenient to all concerned.

The newspapers in some way were apprised of the action of the board and a consequent public discussion added to the embarrassment of all concerned, since the personal relation of each director with the librarian was both friendly and appreciative. The public discussion and the extraneous matter which was brought into the public discussion, was justly resented by the board.

As was stated before (see P. L. 14:190), the librarian and the board held different views as to the policy and progress to be sought in the conduct of affairs. There was, therefore, no other course except for the library to abandon its policies or to seek an administrator who could and would initiate and lead them. They chose the latter course. All the members of the board expressed the highest regard for

Mr Hild as a gentleman and a public official of high character, and only a difference of opinion as to policy in the conduct of library affairs led to their action.

The report that the removal and suspected appointment were due to politics has no foundation; in fact, official interference was refused when asked for in the appointment of a mayor's commission of inquiry.

The library board presented to Mr Hild engrossed resolutions of appreciation for his long and faithful service, for his efficiency as a collector and custodian of a large deposit of books and for his sincere effort to put the library to the use of those who wanted to make use of it.

The following are the minutes of the board's action in regard to this:

At a meeting of the Chicago library board on April 26 and May 3, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Directors of the Chicago public library express in this formal way their sincere respect for the character of the former librarian, Fredrick H. Hild, and that they also express their appreciation of the work done by him and the loyalty that he has displayed during the past 22 years he has held that responsible office; and further, that they wish him a future full of material benefits with the happiest environments.

Resolved, That this minute be spread upon the records, suitably engrossed and presented to Mr Hild in the name of this board.

Resolved: That the privileges of the library granted by the by-laws to former directors be extended likewise to Mr Hild.

The conduct of affairs under the appointment of C. B. Roden as acting librarian, continues without interruption to any undertaking and with good feeling on every hand. It is expected that the whole matter will be settled safely and satisfactorily before very long.

News from the Field

East

The Public library of Hinsdale, Mass., has received a collection of Indian arrows and minerals, said to be worth \$10,000, by the will of the late C. W. Curtiss of Pittsfield.

Ethel D. Roberts, B. L. S., New York, 1908, went to Wellesley college as acting assistant librarian on May 15. Since last October Miss Roberts has been on the staff of the New York state library.

C. B. Tillinghast, State librarian of Massachusetts since 1879, died April 28, as the result of a surgical operation. Mr Tillinghast had been a member of the Massachusetts library commission since 1890, was a member of numerous historical associations and other learned societies. The state library has more than doubled its size since he took charge of it and put it in line with his ideas of its scope. It is one of the best documental libraries in the country.

The Public library in Brookline, Mass., reports in particular as to the following details of its work: The mutilation of a number of library books and the punishment of one of the offenders, the extension of the use of the library on Sundays by opening the children's room, and the results of an experiment in teaching the blind to read. The librarian has made a careful study of the various embossed types and the relative difficulty of mastering them, and she would be glad if her experience could be of value to any library beginning this difficult work. Moon type is strongly recommended for beginners.

The annual report of the Public library, Worcester, Mass., notes the home use as 308,808 v.; reference use 117,606, with 167,313 v. on the shelves; card holders 23,261; salaries \$27,612; books \$9010; periodicals \$2118; binding \$2872; total income \$52,212. The

great need for branch buildings and enlarging of the main building is emphasized. The children's department has established a new alcove for teachers, where they may find the books they need in their school work. A "story hour" for children under 10 and a girls' club for girls over 10 have been started. The "pledge book" has been introduced to create a sense of responsibility among the children about the care of library books, and an earnest effort has been made to improve the quality of the reading done.

The cornerstone of the John Hay memorial library of Brown university was laid with appropriate ceremonies April 30. Addresses were delivered at indoor exercises by President Faunce, Chancellor Chace, Charles E. Hughes jr and William C. Lane, librarian of Harvard university.

Notable instances of the appreciation of the library as a factor in education were given when President Faunce said: "It will always remain true that the library is the heart and center of university life"; Chancellor Chace said: "The foundation and maintenance of great libraries may be said to have been for many centuries the measure of civilization, and this monument to the memory of John Hay, both scholar and diplomatist, shall teach to many generations of young men and women, as they pass by, the lessons of his life, that peace is better than war; and that knowledge is better than ignorance"; Mr Hughes said: "The library is the very embodiment of the university ideal. It is the home of its culture, the typification of the broadness of its education"; and when Librarian Lane, in bringing a message to Brown from other universities, said: "The essentials of a university library are that it be near at hand, that it have few restrictions on access to its shelves, and that its contents be well organized."

At the laying of the cornerstone, Librarian H. L. Koopman of Brown university deposited various documents re-

lating to the university, copies of John Hay's "Castilian Days" and "The Bread Winners" and coins of the United States of the latest issues, one dollar and under, saying, "With such representatives we need not fear to trust our civilization to the criticism of the thirtieth century."

The thirty-first annual report (1908) of the Providence (R. I.) public library shows the present number of volumes to be 137,807, and the circulation for the past year 190,714. The latter shows a gain over one year ago of 45,283, and, over nine years ago (when the present building was occupied), of 85,484. The foreign department circulated 12,352 v., distributed through 14 different languages. Throughout the building the need of more space is felt, especially in the children's department, where there are nearly twice as many volumes as nine years ago, with no additional rooms available. A portion of the report is devoted to the "Extension of the building," and the detailed measures proposed. The number of volumes nine years ago was about 88,000, and the number now in the building is about 160,000. Fortunately, it has been foreseen from the beginning that extensions would be needed, and also on just what lines they would be needed. The lot on which the building stands is amply sufficient to accommodate extensions, which will increase the shelving capacity about 200,000 v.

Central Atlantic

Isabel L. Towner, New York, 1907-8, has been appointed cataloger at the Library of Congress.

The annual report of the Friends' free library of Germantown, Pa., notes a circulation of 18,924 v., with 24,816 v. on the shelves.

Mabel E. Leonard, B. L. S., New York, 1906, has been transferred from the catalog division of the Library of Congress to the Department of Agriculture library.

Helen R. Keller, New York, 1901, has resigned her position as instructor in Drexel institute library school to become second assistant cataloger at Columbia university library.

John G. Ames, who for 30 years was superintendent of public documents, has been appointed librarian of the Washington cathedral. The library has received considerable gifts of books, which Mr Ames will organize and make ready for use.

The James V. Brown library of Williamsport, Pa., has just opened a new reference room, 21x50 feet. In this will be collected the art material, as well as periodicals over 10 years old, colonial records, state archives, departmental reports, bound newspapers, debates of Congress, and all books too valuable for circulation purposes, together with sets of the standard authors for consultation in the library.

The room is furnished in Flemish oak with necessary furniture to match and possesses the atmosphere of a quiet study room.

The committee on circulation of the New York public library has invited the community surrounding the branch libraries to form a small advisory committee of ladies, in connection with each branch, to aid in the matter of decoration and embellishment of the library building. This latter will include the provision of flowers, mural decorations, framed pictures, casts and other objects of art. The library has no funds to make a study of decoration or to carry it out practically. A friend of the library has offered a considerable sum as the nucleus of a fund for the purposes indicated.

The Pratt institute free library, Brooklyn, N. Y., has recently received as a deposit the most extensive collection on amateur journalism that is known to exist. The collection has been made and is being continued by Edwin Hadley Smith, an old-time amateur, and comprises 267 v., containing

27,500 items, either sample pages or newspaper clippings. The volumes are attractively bound, with tables of contents, and fully cataloged. The card catalog has over 10,000 cards. Mr Smith is continuing the collection, and hopes to add to it largely now that it is in a public place, and accessible to all interested in the subject.

The collection contains no school papers, or any published by clubs, but only those published by boys or girls as a private enterprise.

Many amateurs and "old-time amateurs" have come to visit the collection, and the Gotham press club has held a formal meeting at the library.

A summary of the library report for 1908 of the Public library of East Orange, N. J., notes an increase in the use of the assembly room, which is used for educational, literary and philanthropic purposes. The total attendance during the year was 4021; 42 meetings were held. In addition there was an exhibition of mechanical and free-hand drawing and manual training work of the high school.

The apprentice system is bringing good results, both to the apprentices and to the library.

The library has been placed under the system of examinations for promotion used in the New York public library, which is now open to the library staff and apprentices.

The circulation reached 152,334 v. All books but recent fiction and magazines may be kept four weeks, and any number of books may be borrowed at one time. The cost of circulation was six and one-half cents per book, against seven and two-thirds cents of 1907.

A daily record was kept of the circulation of books by 32 of the writers of standard fiction to test the assumption often made that much of the reading of fiction could properly be classed as literature. It was found that they represent but six and one-half per cent

of all fiction read. It would be interesting to know how this compares with other libraries.

The special case of new fiction was removed and all fiction arranged in one alphabet in the book stacks. This change has materially increased the reading of older and tested fiction, and, as the fiction cuts through all other classes of books on the shelf below the level of the eye, it has made the public more generally familiar with the library's whole collection.

Central

Corinne A. Metz, New York, 1907, is cataloging the Public library at Conneaut, O.

Cleveland has received another gift from Andrew Carnegie of \$83,000 for three branch libraries in that city.

Mrs Grace K. Haviland, for five years librarian of Marshalltown, Iowa, has resigned her position and will leave for an extended stay in Europe.

Arabella Martin has resigned her position as librarian of the Carnegie library at Red Wing, Minn., to take effect in June. Miss Martin will take charge of the North Minneapolis branch of the Minneapolis public library.

In acknowledgment of the contributions of Purdue university of Indiana to the work of the association, the directors of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way association have presented the library with a full set of the proceedings of the society.

The circulation of the Dayton public library increased 21 per cent over the previous year; active borrowers, 13,000; total circulation, 276,256, of which non-fiction was 48 per cent. Total number of books in the library, 75,412; added during the year, 15,000 v. Bulletins of the new books have been issued. Special lists have been prepared on various subjects. The school department has outgrown its quarters and has been removed to a room two

blocks off. Monthly staff meetings have been held to discuss problems of the library. The library is crowded for space to an extent that hampers the work.

The report of the Public library of Muncie, Ind., records a circulation of 81,387 v., with 26,124 v. on the shelves. A series of talks by experts on various subjects has been given in the children's room during the year. The reading room was used by 29,111 readers.

The annual report of the Public library of Burlington, Iowa, notes a circulation of 68,587 in the main building; 7474 through the schools, and 3195 through stations. Systematic library instruction has been given in the eighth grades of the public schools at the main building.

Charles C. Weber of Minneapolis has made a tender to the Park board of that city of public baths, with quarters in the second story of the building for a branch of the public library. The offer is intended for a memorial of Mr Weber's son, who died several years ago. Accompanying the tender was a complete set of plans for the building, which it is proposed to erect at a cost of \$20,000.

On account of the growth of the city of Joliet, Ill., and many of its suburbs, there is no longer space between their limits; for instance, persons living on opposite sides of a street may live entirely under different town governments. The Public library of Joliet has been supplying all of the residents of the township in which it is situated with books free of charge. The various suburbs have refused to come into the corporation, notwithstanding the town lines have joined, because of the greater taxation required by the municipality. The demand on the resources of the library is greater than the funds can supply.

At a recent meeting, therefore, a resolution was passed to discontinue

free use of the Public library by the people of Joliet township outside of the city limits and to charge them the same rate as other outside patrons. Those residents of the township who are tax payers of the city of Joliet will be exempt from the ruling.

The annual report of the Cincinnati public library notes a circulation through the branches of 562,733, bringing the total circulation to 1,233,677 v. Six new branches were opened during the year with 71,375 books.

The library has been forced to the storage library plan. A building on the Dayton street library lot was converted into a storage stack room, where shelf room was provided for 31,000 v. Nearly that number of books were removed from the main library, relieving the overcrowding of the shelves and providing space for the additions of the next few years.

The report of the Public library of Milwaukee shows a circulation for the past year of 785,860 v., an increase of 88,294 v. over previous year. Of this total, 174,360 were issued through the schools; 191,657 v. in library—a net addition of 10,060 during the year. There was expended for books and periodicals a sum of \$15,394.81. Total expenditures for year, \$87,131.52. Tax levy for year, \$86,790.37.

During the year the children's room was remodeled and refurnished; the branch at Bay View was placed in the charge of a regular assistant; the building of the new south side branch was begun and new branches were established on the north and east sides.

The Biennial report of the Indiana state library for 1907-08 shows a gratifying increase in the accessions and in the number of readers and references by libraries over the state. The leading features of the report are the following:

The complete establishment of the legislative reference department and its successful work for the assembly.

Much valuable material in state history has been secured.

The Indiana academy of science publications and foreign exchanges are now on the shelves of the library, by an agreement with the academy. Many gifts have been received, of collections and individual volumes. The merit system has been established for appointment to the library service.

The bulletins (including the legislative reference) are bound with the report and contain the book lists, which are intended to serve as a printed catalog.

South

The fifteenth annual report of the Norfolk public library of Norfolk, Va., contains as an appendix, a list of the collection of newspapers in the Norfolk public library, which is perhaps the best collection in some lines in any public library in the country. This fine collection was made through the unceasing efforts for many years of the librarian, William H. Sargeant. It started with 15 and has at present 425. The collection has its special room, its special shelves, and is under the personal control of Mr Sargeant.

The annual report of the Public library of Waco, Texas, contains the following data:

The number of volumes in the library to date is 10,129, accessions for the year numbering 1774, of which 1174 were purchased at a cost of \$901.74. The total home circulation reached 41,914 v., an increase of 3483 over the previous year, with a total register of 5151 persons. The receipts for the year amounted to \$3775.09, the expenditures being \$3345.42. East Waco branch library closes the first full year of its existence with a circulation of 4115.

West

Prof. Thomas B. Boughton, librarian of Huron college, South Dakota, died April 24. Professor Boughton formerly lived in Troy, N. Y.

W. Y. Pemberton has been elected librarian of the State historical society of Montana to succeed W. S. Bell.

Mrs Minnie C. Budlong has been made secretary of the commission and director of library extension. The appropriation for commission work in North Dakota has been increased to \$7800.

Dr. Max Batt of the Agricultural college, Grand Forks, N. D., has been elected president of the North Dakota library association and thereby becomes a member of the State library commission.

Pacific Coast

Helen B. Gracie, New York, 1898-99, goes to the Seattle public library as head of the order department, June 1.

The annual report of the Seattle public library for the year 1908 records an increase of 8338 v. and a total of 102,132 v. in the library. The borrowers registered during the year, 17,241; total registration, 36,470. The population is 276,462, so that 13 per cent of the population borrowed books from the library. This does not include children, who borrow from the small collections deposited in the public schools. The circulation of books for home use from the entire library system numbered 555,374, or 2.01 v. per capita of total population.

The receipts for the year were \$120,308.29; regular expenses, \$78,169.59; extraordinary expenses, \$43,051.04; total expenses, \$121,220.63. The regular expense per capita was 28¼ cents.

The important events during the year were the donation of \$105,000 by Mr Carnegie for three branch library buildings; the donation of sites for these branches in Green Lake, University and West Seattle by residents in these sections; the designation of this library as a depository for the Congressional series of United States government documents; an increase of 100,639 in the circulation of books for home use over the record of the previous year; and the extension of the closing hour at the main library

from 9 p. m. to 10 p. m., beginning June 1.

The three great needs for the future are an increase in the book fund, additional branch libraries, and the enlargement of the main building. The school collection contains only 14,000 v., whereas there are over 30,000 pupils in the public schools.

Canada

The eighth annual report on the Reading Camp association of Canada gives an interesting account of the work accomplished in the past year by 25 university men who are working in camps in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. During the eight years' work of reading camps, 10,000 men have gone to school from one to two hours a night, 10 months in the year.

New Books

The literary man's Bible, Courtney. \$1.25 net. T. Y. Crowell & Co.

This is a presentation of the contents of the Old Testament, King James version, disassociated from the theological aspect and presented purely as literature, under the headings, history, drama, poetry, etc. Introductory essays relate to The Bible as literature, The composite structure of the Bible and kindred topics. There is an index and two maps. Brief notes deal with the reputed authors.

New international yearbook, 1908. Dodd, Mead & Co.

Here is a valuable volume for hasty reference work. It brings together information gathered from widely scattered sources, and in a concise but comprehensive form narrates the progress and changes that were made in 1908 in all departments of knowledge. It supplies a lack that has been sorely felt since the suspension of the Appleton Annuals. The price varies from the cloth edition at \$5 to the full morocco at \$12.50. It is fully illustrated and contains maps showing territorial changes of the year. Recommended for the small library.

The story of libraries and book collecting, Savage. 75 cents net. Routledge, London.

There is gathered here a collection of facts about libraries and book collecting largely dealing with the time when book collection was the main thought of the libraries of the world. The little volume is intended primarily as preparatory textbook for students preparing to take examinations set by the English Library association, and, as such, is a valuable work, dealing entirely with subjects specially interesting to such students. But one can't help wishing Mr Savage had let the students use the sources of knowledge already available for this material and had given instead an analytical history of the latter development of libraries the world over, written as he could do it. Perhaps one may expect some such work from him later. This is a volume for the librarian's library. Indexed.

Ainsworth Rand Spofford, 1825-1908. A memorial meeting at the Library of Congress on Thursday, Nov. 12, 1908. [Washington, D. C.] Printed for the District of Columbia Library Association, 1909. 84 p., 2 parts.

Henry B. Blackwell tells charmingly of the early, strenuous years of book-selling (1845-1860) in Cincinnati, and W. Dawson Johnston gives an outline of Dr Spofford's official work (1860-1897) in the Library of Congress. Mr Noyes, Miss Fletcher, Professor Hough and Hon. A. B. Hagner each contribute brief sketches of Dr Spofford's literary work in various fields—the history of literature, history proper, archaeology and local history. The final contribution, by Mr Griffin, is a list of Dr Spofford's publications, official and others, some 200 in number.

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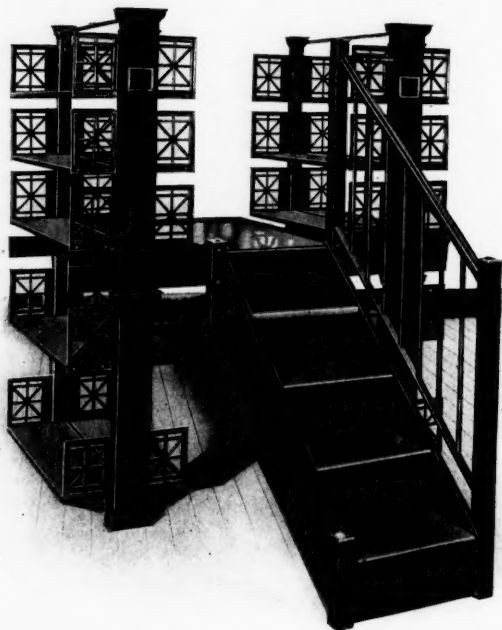
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